

Hafa Adai!

October proclaimed Breast Cancer Awareness Month. **PAGE 2**
CHCC emphasizes importance of regular primary care visits. **PAGE 3**

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AG seeks stay on DQ in Torres' case

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed a motion for a stay on Superior Court judge pro tem Arthur Barcinas' order disqualifying special prosecutor James Kingman and the OAG from prosecuting former governor Ralph DLG Torres in a pending criminal case while the NMI Supreme Court rules on OAG's appeal.

See AG on Page 4

2Lt. Catap graduates from accelerated pilot program



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2nd Lt. Ron Ron Catap completed his Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) in an accelerated program called XPW (Accelerated Path to Wings) last Sept. 13.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan son 2nd Lt. Ron Ron Catap is now a pilot in the U.S. Air Force after graduating last Sept. 13.

"I completed Undergraduate Pilot Training (UPT) in an accelerated program called XPW (Accelerated Path to

Wings) which spanned nine months versus the traditional 12 months. I also flew the T-1A Jayhawk, a twin-engine business jet based off a Beechjet 400 solely instead of starting in the T-6 Texan II, a single-engine turbo-prop. This is only the second time this program has been

See CATAP on Page 4

CEC finalizes preparations for Nov. 5 elections

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI is just a month away from its general elections and the Commonwealth Election Commission has gone full throttle in terms of its preparations.

Yesterday, the CEC board held a meeting to discuss updates on the upcoming elections on top of other matters.

In an interview with CEC executive director Kayla Igitol, she shared that preparations have been running smoothly with no significant challenges.

Igitol shared that preparations include poll workers training, requests for transportation, securing polling sites, and prepara-



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Commonwealth Election Commission board held a meeting yesterday to discuss updates on the upcoming elections on top of other matters.

tion of ballots, boxes, and voting booths.

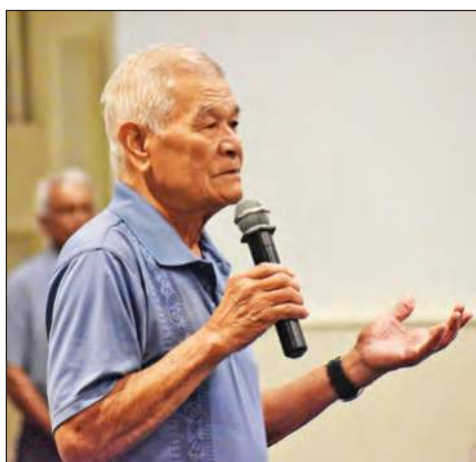
"We have poll workers training until Oct. 3 at

5:30pm each night at the [Pedro P. Tenorio] Multi-Purpose [Center]. That's one of the things we've been doing in

preparation for the elections. We also have coordinated all our requests for transportation

See CEC on Page 4

21 more days to share comments on NOAA's giant clam proposal



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Tanapag resident Juan Tenorio shares his concerns about several parts of NOAA's proposed listing determinations for 10 species of giant clams under the Endangered Species Act during the agency's public comment session at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Sept. 19.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

NOAA Fisheries biologist John Rippe speaks to concerned residents about the Proposed Listing Determinations for Ten Species of Giant Clams under the Endangered Species Act at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Sept. 19.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The clock is ticking for the public to voice their thoughts on a proposed NOAA Fisheries rule that could change the way giant clams are harvested, traded, and protected in the Pacific. With a comment period open until Oct. 23, residents of the CNMI and other stakeholders have a limited window to weigh in on regulations that could list five species of giant clams as endangered and one species as threatened.

At a public meeting held at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Sept. 19, local

See CLAM on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, alongside Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, officially proclaimed Oct. 7-11, 2024 as Digital Inclusion Week in the CNMI during a signing ceremony on Sept. 27, 2024.

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WORLD

Israeli ground forces crossed into southern Lebanon early Tuesday, marking a significant escalation of an offensive against Hezbollah militants and opening a new front in a yearlong war against its Iranian-backed adversaries.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

A New Mexico judge on Monday upheld an involuntary manslaughter conviction against a movie armorer in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the Western film "Rust."

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Commonwealth Cancer Association, members of the Legislature, and numerous government and community partners pose for a group photo yesterday outside the Office of the Governor after October was officially proclaimed as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Local

October proclaimed Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, alongside the Commonwealth Cancer Association, members of the Legislature, and numerous government and community partners, officially proclaimed October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

In his remarks, Palacios honored the incredible courage, strength, and resilience of those impacted by breast cancer, as well as the unwavering dedication of healthcare professionals, caregivers, and advocates who tirelessly fight alongside them.

Apatang reinforced this message, calling on the en-

tire community to unite in raising awareness and offering support to those battling the disease. He encouraged everyone to participate in events throughout the month, demonstrating their solidarity and collective commitment to finding a cure.

The proclamation was read by breast cancer survivors Bernice Ferejan and Lorraine Tenorio followed by Wendielyn Escota, who shared her story of her battle against breast cancer. Sumer Ackley, nurse practitioner with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Oncology Center was the final guest speaker for the proclamation. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang read the proclamation designating October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month yesterday at the Office of the Governor conference room.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rev & Tax provides updates on 2023 tax refunds

The Division of Revenue and Taxation would like to inform taxpayers of the current status and expected timelines for their 2023 tax refunds. As of September 2024, the majority of tax refunds have been processed, but some are still pending.

“This update primarily affects individuals who filed their 2023 tax returns. About 1,600 returns are being processed weekly,” said Daniel T. Alvarez, director for the DRT. He adds these are mostly returns categorized as complex returns.

The processed returns for 2023 are as follows: Refunds: \$8,912,346.49; child Tax Credit: \$9,509,548.18; American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC): \$365,110.91; Earned Income Tax Credit: \$21,930,270.64

Simple returns, are easier to process and are issued on a weekly basis. However, for

those with multiple sources of income, includes certain schedules and other refunds such as AOTC or more complex returns with additional schedules, these types require additional review and processing time. DRT estimates these complex returns will be fully completed by Dec. 13.

Taxpayers are encouraged to check their refund status by calling our office (670) 664-1040. Errors in filing are the number one reason in refund delays. DRT continues to work through refund processing and is committed to issuing refunds as quickly as possible. **(PR)**

Jury selection on Oct. 7 cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel “23CS” that the jury selection scheduled for Monday, Oct. 7, 2024 at 8:30am is hereby cancelled. For more information, contact clerk of court Patrick Diaz at Superior Court at (670) 236-9783 or (670) 783-8522. **(PR)**

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Saipan Tribune
THE ISLAND'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

CHCC emphasizes importance of regular primary care visits

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. emphasizes the importance of primary care in maintaining overall health and well-being. Primary care is not just about visiting the doctor when you are feeling unwell; it is about fostering an ongoing relationship with a healthcare provider who understands your health history and can help identify potential issues before they become serious.

Primary care services serve as the first line of defense in safeguarding the health of our community. Despite this, many individuals underestimate the value of regular checkups, often postponing visits until they are unwell. CHCC emphasizes that primary care is essential for everyone, regardless of their current health status.

Regular visits to a primary care physician offer numerous benefits, including preventive care and screenings, which allow for proactive measures such as vaccinations that help ward off potential health issues. Additionally, regular checkups enable early detection of health problems when they are most treatable, leading to better management of chronic conditions and improving the overall quality of life. Engaging consistently with a primary care provider also contributes to improved health outcomes by maintaining wellness and addressing concerns promptly, while reducing healthcare costs in the long run by preventing the need for more extensive, expensive treatments.

The frequency of visits to your primary care physician may vary depending on individual factors. For most healthy adults, an annual checkup is recommended. However, those who are older or have chronic conditions may need to visit more frequently. Conversely, younger, healthier individuals might only need to see their doctor every other year. It is crucial to work with your healthcare provider to establish a schedule that aligns with your specific health needs.

“Don’t wait until you’re sick to prioritize your health,” said Dr. Andrzej Szeffler, chairperson of the Family Care Clinic. “By scheduling regular checkups with your primary care physician, you’re taking proactive steps towards a healthier, more secure future”, he added.

In the CNMI, breast cancer ranks as the most commonly diagnosed cancer, followed by cancers of the oral cavity, lungs and bronchus, colon and rectum, and uterus. Establishing primary care and prioritizing regular screenings are essential for early detection, which is critical for effective treatment and improved patient outcomes.

In addition to establishing primary care with a physician, the CHCC Oncology Center also offers the CNMI community with comprehensive cancer screening services through the Cancer and Associates Risks Early Screening Project. This initiative is dedicated to the early detection and prevention of common cancers. Individuals who chew betelnut, smoke cigarettes, consume alcohol, or have a family history of cancer are at an increased risk of developing the disease. The CARES Project offers not only CHCC Emphasizes Importance of Regular Primary screening and testing but also cancer prevention counseling, vaccines, and follow-up sessions to discuss results and next steps.

The CHCC encourages everyone to take charge of their health by scheduling their next primary care visit today, whether at the CHCC outpatient clinics or with any other clinic or primary care provider. Establishing care now can make all the difference in preventing serious health issues and ensuring a healthier tomorrow for you and your loved ones. *(PR)*



STATE OFFICIAL READ-A-LOUD

In last Sept. 24’s State Celebrity Read-A-Loud school activity, principal Raena Bermudes Camacho of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School presented Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho to teacher Jace Piñeda’s first grade homeroom class. Camacho, the education chief, read the book “Kada Dia,” which translates to “Every Day,” written by Rose Sharon Taimanao Jones, a Chamorro-Carolinian and Heritage Studies educator from Chacha Oceanview Middle School, as well as her mother, Carmen Songsong Taimanao. This event is a part of the Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Heritage Month celebration of the Public School System this month. A number of public and private organizations are also initiating different events to commemorate Heritage Month.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-027

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 10, 2024 at 9:30 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference, Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “Island Wide Road Restoration” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 28, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 11, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water and Wastewater Division Manager via email, rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, P&S Senior Administrative Technician, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-24-021

AFETNAS WATERLINE REPLACEMENT and AFETNAS SEWERLINE COLLECTION UPGRADE PH I

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The **Afetnas Waterline Replacement project** consists of replacing existing water mains on Afetna Road, Buninas Loop, Chalak Lane, Pios Drive, Uahu Lane, Toson Drive, Sata Drive, and Doddo Way. New water pipelines, saddles, corporation & curb stops, and relocation & reconnection to the existing water meters will be installed and done to accomplish the work. The work will include shallow excavations, rock-breaking, installing new flush & fire hydrants, pressure & air relief valves, connecting new service laterals, asphalt pavement restoration, installing flowable fill, and other appurtenances for a complete and functional water system.

The **Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I project** consists of furnishing all labor, supervision, equipment, and materials for the construction of various improvements within an area. This work includes, but is not limited to installation of new gravity main and new sewer manholes, service laterals, connection of new service laterals to existing service laterals, abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road.

The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water and sewer systems. CUC requires the Projects to be completed in **540 calendar days** from the date of the award of the contract.

These projects are funded by grants from the United States American Rescue Plan Act (US ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The award of these projects is contingent upon receipt of approval for project awards from US ARPA and US EPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-24-021, Afetnas Waterline Replacement and Afetnas Sewerline Collection Upgrade Ph I**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 7, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time or post-marked before the due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns, and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contract nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to a lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on September 16, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Kennet Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org, and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CLAM

From page 1

fishermen, artisans, and community leaders expressed their concerns about how the rule might affect their livelihoods and cultural practices. The conversation, however, is far from over, and NOAA Fisheries is encouraging everyone to provide feedback before decisions are finalized.

Biologist John Rippe of NOAA Fisheries explained during the public hearing on Saipan, that the effort to protect these clam species began in 2016 with a petition and a subsequent status review that assessed the risks of extinction. Based on the findings, species such as *Hippopus porcellanus* and *Tridacna gigas* are recommended for endangered status, while *Hippopus hippopus* may be listed as threatened. Though some of these species were once abundant in the Marianas, they are now nearly nonexistent, particularly in the wild.

Yet, for many islanders, the proposal brings more questions than answers. At the public meeting, Tanapag resident and longtime fisherman Juan I. Tenorio raised concerns about how federal regulations could impose unnecessary restrictions on local waters.

“I have never seen a giant clam on Saipan,” he said, questioning why these species should be listed when they aren’t locally present. For Tenorio, the issue touches on something deeper—the right of the CNMI to manage its own marine resources, and to continue to practice tradition and culture involving the ocean.

“Our life is either you farm or you go find life for your family out in the water,” he said. Tenorio also made note that when it came to conservation, islanders were raised with a conservation system already taught to them by their ancestors. Rules on what age to catch certain sea life, and what age not to catch them, showing that the Marianas has its own system of conservation as well.

The potential impact on local

artisans is also a point of contention. Department of Lands and Natural Resources’ Kalani Reyes, noted how prohibiting the import and export of clam shells could significantly affect jewelry makers who rely on these materials. She highlighted the importance of shell-based crafts during cultural exchanges, like the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture, where island nations share their traditional handiwork. “This would significantly impact shell carvers, jewelry makers, cultural practitioners,” Reyes said, urging NOAA to consider the broader implications of the rule.

During the meeting NOAA stressed that the proposed regulations are necessary to protect species that are at risk of extinction due to habitat loss, overharvesting, and climate change. Beyond the six species directly affected, the agency also wants to regulate four additional species—*Tridacna crocea*, *Tridacna maxima*, *Tridacna noae*, and *Tridacna squamosa*—that are often mistaken for the endangered clams due to their similar appearance.

While the proposed rule would allow residents to continue harvesting these four species for local use, NOAA seeks to prohibit the import and export of clam meat, pearls, and shell jewelry to prevent confusion with endangered species. Rippe explained that once the meat and shells are removed, it becomes difficult to distinguish between protected species and those still allowed for harvest.

“I want to emphasize that we have not made a final decision we are in a proposed role stage and so we are looking for your input at this point.”

Rippe said during the meeting, “So we are essentially soliciting your input on what our proposal is if we’ve overlooked any information in our proposal, if there’s any information that is incorrect, that’s the type of information we are soliciting from the public at this point, so that we can consider it in the final rule, within a year before we announce the proposed rule in July 2025.”

Rippe added, “We will be publishing a final rule our final listing determination taking into account the public comment we hear today any comments we receive online or by mail.”

As the comment period remains open, residents are encouraged to make their voices heard. Some, like Garapan resident Harley Eriich, acknowledged that federal involvement can sometimes be necessary to curb unsustainable practices. Recalling the damage caused by unregulated fishing methods like “using Clorox to harvest octopus or using dynamite to go fishing” things which he observed being done as he grew up, Eriich emphasized the need for education to ensure marine resources are managed responsibly. “If you leave those things unchecked, eventually somebody is going to step in and say, ‘This is how you should treat your land,’” Eriich said. “If we’re so adamant about taking care of our land, I think we should educate our own people.”

For Mathew C. Masga, a shell carver on Tinian, in his comment online he warned that the change could have devastating effects on Chamorro cultural traditions and local livelihoods.

Masga detailed the historical and cultural significance of giant clam shells in Chamorro art, pointing to evidence found at ancient burial sites. “Chamorro body ornaments, crafted from giant clam shells, can be traced back to ancient burial sites documented by the Northern Marianas Department of Historical Preservation,” Masga shared, emphasizing the long-standing role these shells have played in the Marianas’ cultural identity.

For over 10 years Masga shared that he has been carving various types of giant clam shells, replicating ancient Chamorro ornaments and tools, with the goal of promoting the island’s heritage. However, he explained that the proposed reclassification of giant clams as endangered could jeopardize this practice.

“For hundreds of years, our cultural identity has faced threats,” Masga

said. “Reclassifying giant clam shells from threatened to endangered species status would further jeopardize our cultural heritage and artistic expression.”

He shared that the Sinahi necklace, carved from giant clam shells and shaped like the first crescent moon, has become a well-known emblem of Chamorro culture, often bought by visitors as souvenirs and by U.S. military personnel who carry a piece

of the Marianas with them to their duty stations.

“Our remote location compounds these difficulties,” he said. “As the only shell carver on Tinian, it is essential to continue practicing and preserving our cultural heritage for future generations.”

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CEC

From page 1

in regard to chartering our flights to Tinian and Rota, and bus transportation for our poll workers. [Lastly], we’ve secured polling sites, and we have prepared nearly everything like ballots, supply boxes, and voting booths,” she said.

During the meeting, Igitol also released the official list of polling sites.

The polling places are as follows:

- Election District Precinct 1A (San Antonio Area)
- Hopwood Junior High School Cafeteria (Football field entrance)
- Precinct 1B-1 (San Vicente/Dandan Area)
- 1B-2 (San Vicente/Dandan Area)
- Dandan Middle School Cafeteria (Dandan baseball/softball field entrance)
- Precinct 1C (Koblerville Area)
- Koblerville Elementary School (Cafeteria)
- Precinct 2 (Chalan Kanoa/Su-supe Area)
- Joeten/Kiyu Public Library (Front entrance)
- Precinct 3A (San Jose/Oleai)
- Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria (Front entrance)
- Precinct 3B-1 (Garapan Area)

CATAP

From page 1

executed at Columbus AFB. The first class being experimental with students with extensive flying experience. My class of 12 had various backgrounds from zero experience to hundreds of hours of civilian flying time,” he said.

Catap started his career in the U.S. Air Force as an aircraft mechanic on C-17s. During his 10 years as an aircraft maintainer, he deployed five times and spent an average of 200-plus days overseas. Catap was also a part of the crew that brought relief to Saipan after Super Typhoon Yutu hit the islands in 2018.

“My time as an aircraft mechanic is what really sparked my interest and goal of becoming a pilot. I went to school, working on my B.S. in Aviation degree, while also taking flying lessons. I was able to obtain my commercial pilot license and instrument rating and even flew part-time for an aerial survey company, obtaining several hundred hours to gain experience.”

He said in 2019, the Air Force reinstated a program to allow enlisted pilots to fly Remotely Piloted Aircraft—most commonly referred to as RPAs or drones—and he was one of 96 enlisted airmen selected to fly the RQ-4 Global Hawk.

- 3B-2 (Garapan Area)
- Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria (Northern entrance)
- Precinct 4A (Tanapag Area)
- Tanapag Youth Center (Main entrance)Precinct 4B (San Roque/As Matius Area)
- Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria (Main)
- Precinct 4C (Capitol Hill Area)
- Jesus P. Manas Legislative Building (House Chamber)
- Precinct 4D (Northern Islands)
- Alamagan, Pagan and Agrigan
- Precinct 5-1 (Kagman Area)
- 5-2 (Kagman Area)
- Chacha Oceanview Middle School (Cafeteria)
- Precinct 6 (Tinian & Aguiguan) Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria
- Precinct 7 (Rota)

Rota-Northern Marianas College Room B-2 (Main entrance)

All polling places for the general election will open at 7am and close at 7pm on Nov. 5.

As mandated by 1 CMC –ß6218 (a), voters must ensure that they bring with them a pictured ID as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot at the polls.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Election Commission at 235-8683 (VOTE).

“This was the first time since World War II that enlisted pilots were allowed to fly, so it was a huge deal. I flew the RQ-4 for nearly four years as a mission commander, but with the concurrent aircraft divestment and sunset of enlisted pilots, I decided commissioning was the next step in my career,” shared Catap during his interview with *Saipan Tribune* last year.

Catap also shared his unforgettable experience during his pilot training.

“Most memorable moment was flying formation during simulated low-level airdrop and aerial refueling missions. There’s nothing more exhilarating than putting two planes close to each other and having complete control over the outcome. Flying formation is what separates civilian and military flying, and that added challenge will definitely be one of the more memorable moments of pilot training. Outside of flying, the camaraderie, teamwork, and drive to get better every day is something I will remember. Finally, getting my assignment and wings pinned on by my wife will be a lifelong memory. The years of sacrifice to get to this point made it all worth it.”

Catap will be completing his initial qualification on the KC-46A Pegasus, the Air Force’s newest tanker/airlift aircraft based on a Boeing 767. Following that training, he will be heading to the West Coast as a fresh copilot for more training and seasoning.

AG

From page 1

Last week, OAG chief solicitor Robert Glass Jr. filed a motion to stay order and case with Tem Barcinas, the same judge who issued the order in question, pending a ruling on the OAG’s appeal with the NMI Supreme Court.

The ruling the OAG wants stayed is the order issued by Barcinas last July 16, disqualifying special prosecutor turned assistant attorney general Kingman and the entire OAG from prosecuting former governor Torres’ pending criminal case.

Aside from his order, the OAG also wants Barcinas to stay further case proceedings until the Supreme Court issues its opinion on the appeal.

“The Commonwealth requests this court to issue a stay of its order disqualifying the special prosecutor and the OAG and to stay further case proceedings until the appeal is resolved by the NMI Supreme

Court,” said Glass.

Essentially, Glass argues that Barcinas’ order erogenous as the NMI Supreme Court (in the case of *Torres vs. Manibusan*) previously found that neither the governor nor the Executive Branch has the constitutional authority to prosecute without consent and a grant of authority by the Attorney General.

“As this court has taken such constitutional power away from the Attorney General to designate a prosecutor and has left such up to the ‘Executive Branch,’ the order is in error and should be stayed along with the case pending appeal,” said Glass.

Glass, in his motion, argues that the disqualifications have important implications on the issue of the separation of powers.

The chief solicitor explains that the constitution gives the OAG prosecutorial authority and established the office as an independent agency.

“The constitutional mandate regarding the Attorney General’s duty to prosecute violations of the Commonwealth law raises serious ques-

tion regarding the separation of powers when the Judicial Branch disqualifies the entire office. The separation of power doctrine is important and upholding it is important to the rule of law. As such, the issue of disqualifying the entire office raises serious questions about the separation of powers and the criminal case and the order should be stayed while the issue is decided by the NMI Supreme Court,” said Glass.

In addition, Glass argues that by deferring prosecution to the Executive Branch welcomes political interference in this case.

“By taking the issue of prosecuting out of the hands of the OAG, the court has invited political interference because the Executive Branch is political in nature. Because the Governor is political in nature, having the Executive Branch choose a prosecutor outside of the constitutional authority of the elected Attorney General raises questions regarding justice in this case and whether justice can be done when politics is given reign over the prosecution,” he said.

Palacios signs proclamation for Digital Inclusion Week in CNMI



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, center left, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, center right, stand alongside CNMI stakeholders and legislators during the proclamation for Digital Inclusion Week on Sept. 27, 2024. The event marked a significant step toward improving digital equity in the CNMI. Ethan Lake (in maroon), NTIA Federal Program officer for the Pacific Territories, was present to show his support.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, alongside Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, officially proclaimed Oct. 7-11, 2024 as Digital Inclusion Week in the CNMI during a signing ceremony on Sept. 27, 2024.

The event brought together multiple stakeholders, including the CNMI Broadband Policy and Development Office, local legislators, and other community leaders. Also present was visiting NTIA Federal Program officer for the Pacific Territories, Ethan Lake, underscoring the significance of this national week of awareness for the islands.

Digital Inclusion Week, celebrated nationwide, is an annual event organized by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance. The week highlights efforts to close the digital divide and ensure that everyone, regardless of income, location, or background, has access to affordable internet, devices, and the skills needed to use technology effectively.

What Digital Inclusion Week means for the CNMI

Digital inclusion is especially critical for the CNMI as the islands work toward ensuring that every resident has the opportunity to connect to the digital world. Palacios emphasized that digital inclusion is about more than just having internet access; it means equipping residents with the knowledge and tools to fully participate in today's digital economy and society.

The governor's Broadband Policy & Development Office has been at the forefront of these efforts, driving several key initiatives to advance digital equity:

1. Development of the CNMI Digital Equity Five-Year Plan: BPD has created a comprehensive roadmap that lays out a strategic approach to closing the digital divide across the CNMI. This plan, known as the CNMI Digital Equity



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang sign the official proclamation for Digital Inclusion Week on Sept. 27, 2024.

Five-Year Plan, was developed through a rigorous process involving stakeholder engagement, community needs assessments, and asset mapping. It provides a clear vision and actionable steps to ensure that all residents, especially those in underserved areas, have access to the digital tools and opportunities necessary for success.

2. Encouraging participation in the NTIA's Digital Equity Competitive Grant: As part of its commitment to expanding digital inclusion, BPD has actively engaged and supported eligible entities in applying for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. This grant program focuses on promoting digital equity by funding initiatives that provide resources and opportunities for Covered Populations—groups most impacted by the digital divide. By encouraging local organizations to apply, BPD is working to bring more funding and support for CNMI-based digital equity initiatives.

3. Securing additional funding for Digital Equity Programs: The CNMI Broadband Policy & Development Office remains dedicated to pursuing further financial support to continue its digital inclusion efforts. By actively seeking additional federal and private sector funding, the office aims to expand existing programs and launch new initiatives that will equip CNMI residents with essential digital skills, af-

fordable internet access, and opportunities for workforce development in the growing digital economy.

Through these ongoing efforts, the CNMI Broadband Policy & Development Office is helping build a stronger, more connected CNMI where every resident, no matter where they live or their economic background, can take part in the opportunities of today's digital age. Governor's Broadband Bootcamp

One of the key events during Digital Inclusion Week will be the launch of the Governor's Broadband Bootcamp, a collaborative training initiative that will kick off soon. This program is the result of partnerships between multiple community stakeholders, working together to equip local residents with essential skills in broadband deployment.

Participants will receive hands-on training in broadband infrastructure development, including laying fiber-optic cables and other technical skills crucial to building the CNMI's digital capacity. These efforts will prepare the islands for the upcoming roll-out of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program, ensuring that the local workforce is ready to support large-scale broadband projects.

Digital Inclusion Week student competition
In celebration of Digital Inclusion Week, the CNMI will also

be hosting a Digital Inclusion Week Competition for students across the Commonwealth, inviting participation from grades 1 through 12. More details will be announced soon, but this exciting event, a collaborative effort between the CNMI BPD Office and other key partners, will encourage students to get involved in the digital inclusion movement. By engaging our youth, this competition will inspire the next generation to explore digital opportunities and help build a more inclusive digital future for the CNMI.

Palacios encourages all residents, businesses, and organizations to participate in Digital Inclusion Week and support ongoing efforts to create a more digitally inclusive CNMI. Together, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed in the digital age.

For more information on Digital Inclusion Week activities, visit CNMI BPD's website or contact the CNMI Broadband Policy and Development Office at cnmi.bpd@gmail.com. (PR)

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First Hawaiian Bank

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK, a Hawaii Corporation,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-00015
Plaintiff,	AMENDED SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION
v.	
TIANCHI CORPORATION, a Northern Mariana Islands Corporation and YOUNG FU HONG, Defendants.	

TO YOUNG FU HONG
PMB 498C BOX 10003
Saipan, MP 96950:

A lawsuit has been filed against you. Within 21 days after the last publication date of this amended summons you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. A copy of the FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT has been delivered to the CNMI Office of the Attorney General. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's office, whose name and address are:

VINCENT J. SEMAN
SEMAN LAW OFFICES, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168
Saipan, MP 96950

If you fail to respond, judgement by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT. You must file your answer or motion with the court.

Dated: September 27, 2024

CLERK OF COURT

/s/
Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP24-GOV/OGM-42400134

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"ENERGIZING INSULAR COMMUNITIES:
GOVERNMENT SOLAR ENERGY APPLICATIONS AND
INTAKE ELECTRONIC TRACKING SYSTEM"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE SENT TO ADMINISTRATOR OF OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT, MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR. AT EPI.CABRERA@GOV.MP BY 4:30 P.M. CHST., OCTOBER 09, 2024.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

UN speeches reflect grim global realities

The world, warned President Joe Biden, is at an “inflection point.”

The world, warned U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, “is in a whirlwind.”

“Our task, our test,” the president said, “is to make sure that the forces holding us together are stronger than those that are pulling us apart.” Today’s choices, he said, “will determine our future for decades to come.”

“We are in an era of epic transformation,” the secretary-general said, “facing challenges unlike any we have ever seen—challenges that demand global solutions.”

The perilous descriptions of today’s frayed geopolitical order went even deeper as both Biden and Guterres continued with comments that were complementary but not coordinated as the United Nations began its 79th annual General Assembly on Tuesday at U.N. Headquarters in New York.

Biden, bidding farewell to the world stage, was more self-referential. Guterres, who has a few more years on his second term, was a bit wearier. But the speeches’ similarities were striking.

Reflecting a worldview tied to geopolitics, Guterres said that “we are edging toward the unimaginable—a powder keg that risks engulfing the world.”

Among the potential igniters is what the secretary-general described as “a world of impunity, where violations and abuses threaten the very foundation of international law and the U.N. charter,” as well as “a world of inequality, where injustices and grievances threaten to undermine countries or even push them over the edge” and “a world of uncertainty, where unmanaged global risks threaten our future in unknowable ways.”

Biden channeled these challenges—especially Russia’s illegal, immoral invasion of Ukraine. “We cannot grow weary; we cannot look away,” Biden said after highlighting his administration’s advocacy for Ukraine and strengthening of alliances, including a reinvigorated and expanded NATO, which along with everyday Ukrainians “stood up.”

Beyond Eastern Europe, the Mideast was on both leaders’ minds as they addressed fellow world leaders. Indeed, as they spoke carnage continued on multiple fronts, including the deadliest days since at least 2006 in Lebanon, the home base of Iran-backed Hezbollah, which like Hamas in Gaza is considered a terrorist group by Israel, the U.S. and scores of other countries.

“We should all be alarmed by the escalation,” said Guterres. “The people of Lebanon, the people of Israel, and the people of the world cannot afford Lebanon to become another Gaza.”

Imperiled Palestinian civilians, Biden said, “didn’t ask for this war that Hamas started.” Nor, of course, did Israeli citizens. “The world must not flinch from the horrors of October 7,” the president said.

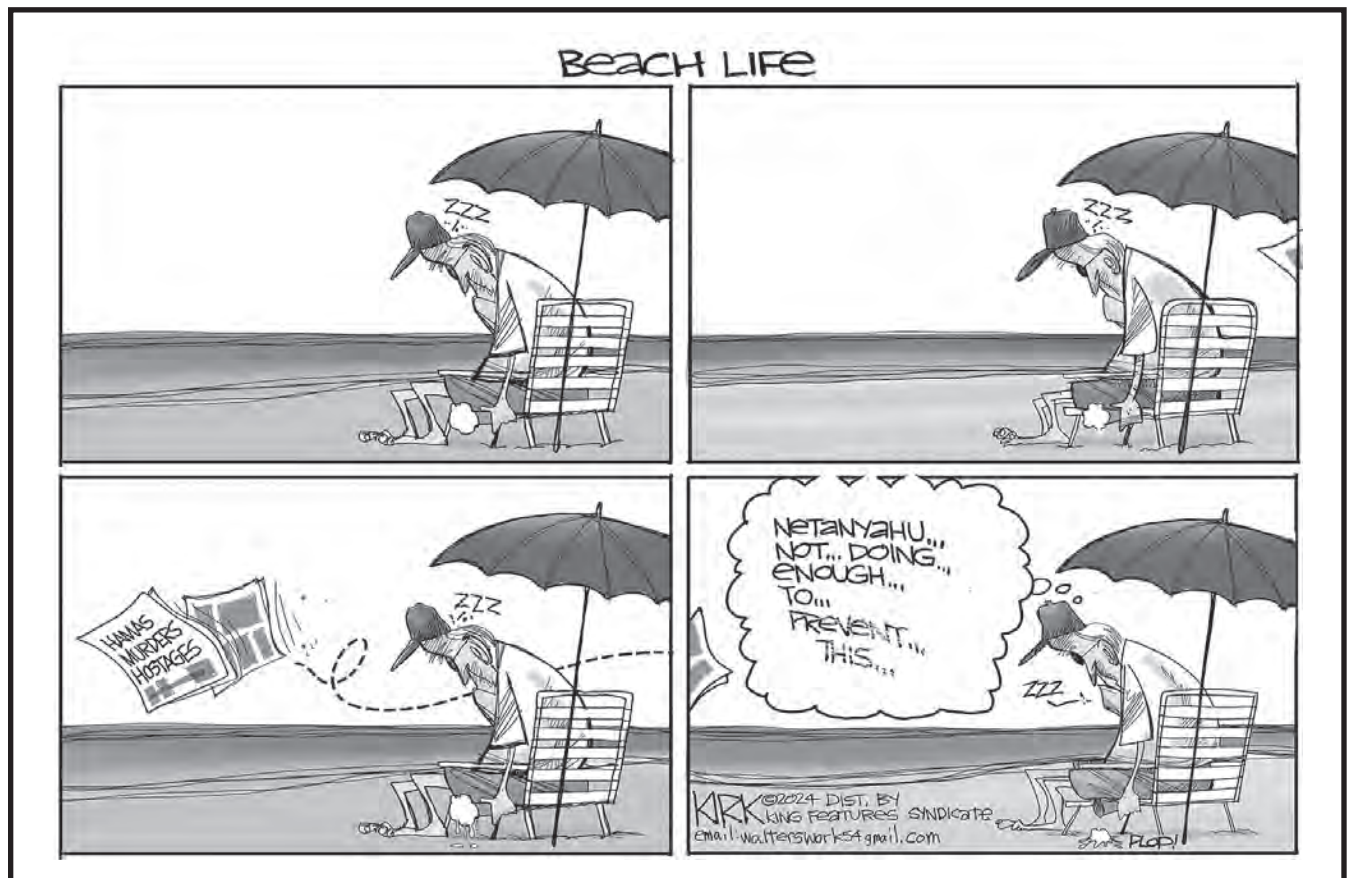
Guterres and Biden called for a cease-fire and continued their unceasing call for a Palestinian state.

“Full-scale war is not in anyone’s interest,” Biden said, adding that a “diplomatic solution is still possible.”

Transnational challenges were on both leaders’ agenda too—especially unchecked artificial intelligence and climate change.

Biden, bowing out of foreign affairs after 50 years, was wistful in saying “there is so much more I want to get done.” But, he added, “Some things are more important than staying in power: It’s your people.”

See UN on Page 7



Want kids to care about school? Make it useless

Students are bored in school. In our recently released poll of American teenagers, 68% agreed with the statement “school is boring.” When asked why they think America is suffering from problems with students being chronically absent, the most popular response was “they think school is boring, followed close behind by, “they think school is pointless.”

Problems with chronic absenteeism and student discipline are well trod ground at this point, and observers are generally reaching for the usual explanations and solutions: Ban phones in school, provide more support services, change discipline procedures.

All perfectly fair, but what if these would just treat the symptoms of a larger problem?

In too many places, schooling has become too narrow, too practical, too measurable, and too spiritless to ignite interest in young people. It has lost touch with the real ends of education. Fifteen years ago, researchers Tom Dee and Brian Jacob surveyed the impact of No Child Left Behind and reported that recent reforms had caused schools “to reallocate instructional time toward tested subjects, to reallocate time within tested subjects toward specific content and skills covered on the exam, and to increase time devoted to narrow test preparation activities that may have little broader value.”

By rediscovering what it means to be educated, and reorienting schooling around that, we can better engage students and encourage a deeper connection to school.

The goal of our K-12 education system for the past decade-plus, we’ve been told, is “college and career readiness.” While perhaps noble in intention, it appears to be increasingly insipid in practice. It is lots of disparate skills separated from deeper meaning or purpose.

Let’s look at the Missouri Learning Standards, the set of goals that the Show-Me State establishes for its students (and I don’t mean to pick on Missouri, I just happen to be from there, this exercise could be replicated in most states).

For grades 6-12 in English Language Arts, the standards fall into three categories: “Comprehend and interpret texts,” “analyze craft and structure,” and “synthesize ideas from multiple texts.”

What is missing there? These are all means, there are no ends. Comprehend what texts? Why? Synthesize what kinds of ideas? To accomplish what?

Education is ultimately about what the Greeks called “eudaimonia,” or human flourishing. Continuing into higher education or a fulfilling profession can certainly be part of a flourishing life, but we should be careful not to reduce a flourishing life to either.

In his documentary *Why Beauty Matters*, the late Roger Scruton intoned, “Put usefulness first, and you lose it. Put beauty first, and what you do will be useful forever. It turns out, nothing is more useful than the useless.”

Perhaps the best way to prepare students to succeed in college and in their careers is to teach them to appreciate beautiful things, to

By **MICHAEL MCSHANE**

Tribune News Service

Michael McShane is director of national research at EdChoice, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, nonpartisan organization working to advance educational freedom and choice for all students.



seek the truth, and to pursue goodness. Rather than narrowing the domains that we teach, we should be broadening them.

The most common response to this argument that I hear is that it reeks of privilege. Sure, for wealthy students or students with more of a safety net, spending time exploring beauty or what it means to be human is a fine pursuit. But poor kids need skills because they need jobs.

But this is where Scruton’s wisdom returns. The current thinking is that we need to teach young people useful things. The problem is that what is useful today might not be useful tomorrow. Manufacturing that was done by hand might be 3D printed in the future. Coding languages may be replaced by AI large language model prompts. We might weld fewer oil pipelines and solder more solar panels. We don’t know what the future holds.

But we do know that teaching students about what it means to be virtuous, to be prudent, to be courageous, to seek justice, and to practice temperance will never be out of style. Wouldn’t you prefer a boss that has these traits? Wouldn’t you prefer to hire people that have them?

We read great works of literature, study history, and observe art not for some practical end, but rather to understand the nature of what it means to be human. What does it mean to love? To lose things you love? To gain power? To wield it? To lose it? What is the nature of family, friends, and community? What do we owe each other? What do we owe ourselves?

None of these things will help someone get their first job. There is not an immediate practicality to them. But because life requires, you know, living, figuring out what it means to be a flourishing person will have all sorts of positive knock-on effects, even if unintentionally. Spending time wrestling with these things will certainly help students be a better co-worker, a better spouse, a better parent, a better citizen, and a better person. People who have learned how to be fair and honest and work hard and be prudent and to critically examine the world around them will always be in demand regardless of the narrow specifics of their job title.

Presenting a vision of education to young people that is not about amassing some set of skills for their college or their careers but a journey to understand themselves and the world might just reignite a fire that has been going out for some time now.

Wildfire smoke is running up our credit-card debt

Americans are increasingly familiar with the many joys of wildfire smoke: stinging eyes, raspy throats, aggravated health conditions, speed-learning the nuances of the Air Quality Index. Now we can add increased credit card debt to the list. It's the latest evidence that climate change isn't a deep-future problem but a crisis that's hurting us physically and economically right now.

A new working paper from researchers at the Dallas and Philadelphia Federal Reserve banks and UCLA Anderson School of Management finds that people exposed to wildfire smoke, even several miles from the source, usually go deeper into credit card debt as a result. They also pay their cards more slowly and fall into delinquency more often. After the 2018 Camp Fire in California, for example, households exposed to smoke 5 to 30 miles away from the fire added an annualized \$1,400, on average, to their debt.

This effect tends to be higher closer to the fire, but when heavy smoke is blown hundreds of miles away, the economic cost travels with it. The researchers said their findings suggest, conservatively, that New Yorkers might have taken on an extra \$10 billion in credit card debt as a result of the smoke that reached the city from Canadian fires last year.

The main way smoke creates debt is by generating medical bills. Wildfire smoke is about 10 times more harmful to human health than, say, car exhaust. It triggers heart attacks and strokes and complicates pregnancies. It's particularly hard on people

with respiratory health issues, affecting about a third of U.S. households, the paper noted. That 2023 Canadian wildfire smoke, which affected 122 million Americans, boosted asthma-related emergency-room visits alone by 17%, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated. Many financially struggling families probably put those expenses on their credit cards.

People in smoky areas will also spend extra money on air purifiers, air conditioners and masks. Their income may be affected by job shutdowns and disruptions. All of that creates economic hardship, particularly for people who are already stretched thin. Add to that the destruction wrought by the fires themselves, including California's insurance crisis, and the macroeconomic impact grows.

And the Dallas Fed paper doesn't include the expensive, long-term health impacts of breathing toxic smoke, which scientists are still unraveling, as my Bloomberg Opinion colleague Lisa Jarvis has written. These include everything from cancer to dementia to cognitive problems in children. And again, the most economically vulnerable populations suffer the most.

These are problems bound to increase in the future as the planet warms, making the air hotter and drier and raising the risk of more frequent and intense fires. As Jarvis noted, a recent National Bureau of Economic Research paper suggested wildfire smoke alone would take 27,800 U.S. lives a year by 2050.

But climate change has already ramped up wildfire risk, even after just 2.6 degrees Fahrenheit of warming above preindustrial

By **MARK GONGLOFF**

Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion editor and columnist covering climate change. He previously worked for *Fortune.com*, the *Huffington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*.



averages in the lower 48 states, by one estimate. In parts of California and the Southwest, wildfire season is two months longer than in 1973, according to a recent analysis by the non-profit group Climate Central. The acreage of U.S. land burned each year has recently been double the long-term average.

To slow this trend, we need to stop burning fossil fuels and making the planet even warmer. While we all hold our breath waiting for that to happen, we must also broaden our idea of public wildfire relief beyond rebuilding houses to include helping people deal with the health-care costs that could accumulate for lifetimes. We must do a better job of educating people about the risks of smoke and protecting outdoor workers from both the pollution and its effect on their paycheck.

And Americans need to finally lose the mistaken idea, which shows up time and again in opinion polls, that fighting climate change somehow conflicts with helping the economy. They are one and the same. The climate emergency is happening now, and fighting it isn't just environmental policy. It's economic stimulus.

Americans are losing interest in our nation's crucial role in the world

By **STORER H. ROWLEY, STEPHEN FRANKLIN and JOHN SISCO**

Chicago Tribune

Americans are losing touch with the world, and the presidential campaign isn't solving the problem.

Economic issues, immigration, taxes, and even dogs and cats dominated the recent presidential debate between Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump, but less noticed in the fray and its coverage was the effort by the candidates to promote their global goals.

That matters greatly since they laid out starkly different visions of U.S. foreign policy for voters to consider.

The question is whether Americans are listening. Surveys show many are avoiding foreign news or losing interest in this nation's pivotal role in the world—a trend that may well undermine America's impact and leadership abroad, damage U.S. democracy at home, or worse, fuel a disturbing trend toward isolationism.

Like the decline of the Roman Empire, some fear America's three-decade run as the world's sole superpower is on the wane. Yet another close and contentious upcoming election worries allies and erodes U.S. standing in the world. Far too many voters support former President Trump's "America First" approach, even as a growing alliance of malign global rivals such as China, Russia, North Korea and Iran seeks to challenge U.S. democracy, economic dominance and military power worldwide.

Certainly, President Joe Biden deserves immense credit for rebuilding trust and faith among U.S. allies that America remains a reliable partner. Biden revived and expanded alliances and multilateral diplomacy, picking up the wreckage after Trump's abrogation of international agreements such as the 2015 Iran nuclear deal and the 2016 Paris climate agreement, repeated harassment of our NATO partners and threats to withdraw from the alliance altogether.

Biden rejoined the Paris accord in 2021 and worked to restore respect for U.S. diplomacy abroad. He leveraged his vast foreign policy experience and pulled NATO together to support Ukraine after Russia's unprovoked invasion and helped NATO add two new members, Finland and Sweden. He is right to warn that Russian expansionism won't stop with Ukraine. However, if Trump returns to office, all these efforts could be for naught.

On debate night, Vice President Harris took the traditional path: touting the importance of U.S. partners and alliances in preserving national security at home with democratic norms abroad, while defending the inviolability of borders, the sov-

ereignty of nations and international respect for the rule of law. With authoritarianism on the rise worldwide, these commitments are more important than ever.

Yet Trump, by contrast, modeled a 21 st century caricature of French King Louis XIV's "L'etat c'est moi" ("The state: It is I"), claiming he alone could wield presidential power to get Russia to stop its war on Ukraine or bring intractable fighting in Gaza to a close. Simultaneously, he exalted authoritarian regimes such as Viktor Orban's Hungary, stoked racial animus against immigrants by falsely accusing Haitian migrants of eating household pets and declined to say whether he wants Ukraine to win its war.

Despite these fundamental differences in worldview, Americans at the crossroads do not seem as committed to the U.S. taking an active role in the world today as they were, for example, during the Cold War or after 9/11. Perhaps the stakes don't seem as high now, but it would be folly to step back and disengage.

In research for our book "The World We Don't Know," which covers the decline in U.S. foreign correspondents and global news content, as well as Americans' engagement in the world and news about it, the early results raise concern.

In an AmeriSpeak Omnibus study for the book conducted by the nonpartisan research group NORC at the University of Chicago, 66% of the 1,124 respondents in a national survey agreed or strongly agreed it is important for the U.S. public to be informed about foreign news, yet little more than half (53%) said they followed it closely or very closely.

Moreover, only about half saw the decline in consumption and interest in foreign news as a danger. While 53% acknowledged a decline in public interest in foreign news leaves citizens less informed and harms democracy in America, only 47% agreed that the trend undercuts U.S. leadership abroad and isolates the country more from the world.

In a breakdown of the kinds of international stories that did draw the most significant interest, unsurprisingly, foreign crises and upheaval were at the top. Some 39% of respondents said they were very or extremely interested in international news stories if they involved U.S. involvement in crises abroad or foreign policy decisions; 35% showed interest in crisis, disaster, war or upheaval in another country; 25% in human interest stories about life, health, science and people outside the U.S.; and 16% in foreign culture, such as movies, TV shows, books, music or the arts.

What's especially striking is how younger Americans, ages 19 to 29, view foreign news.

They are more likely than middle-aged Americans to say that foreign news is not relevant to their lives, and they are least interested in news about the U.S. involvement in foreign crises or U.S. foreign policy decisions. If they follow foreign news at all, they rely the least on newspapers, TV or cable outlets—the media that put the greatest emphasis on providing it.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, similarly, has been conducting public opinion surveys on American foreign policy since 1974, and today, its polling shows American support for the U.S. taking an active role in world affairs is down to 56%. That was the lowest number in roughly 40 years.

Global turmoil abounds. In the past two years, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Israel-Hamas war now threatening to spread to a regional conflict, political upheaval in sub-Saharan Africa, climate disasters and critical elections worldwide are only some of the developments to have rocked the international community.

But our research questions whether the issue lies not with what events are happening in the world, but what we know about them. Global news and stories are certainly out there, but are enough Americans reading, viewing and listening to them?

Almost universally, Americans report significantly lower levels of interest in international news than in news about their own communities, or the United States as a whole. Amid persistent high inflation and one of the most polarizing presidential elections in modern times, it may be draining to follow just America's issues, let alone those of the rest of the world.

However, history shows that isolationism is fraught and dangerous. Americans would do well to remember that we live in an era of rising threats, instability and autocracy, and if we aren't more mindful, it just may eat us for lunch.

Storer H. Rowley and Stephen Franklin are writers and former foreign correspondents for the *Chicago Tribune*. John Sisco is a student at Northwestern University. Research for "The World We Don't Know" is supported by a grant from the Alumnae of Northwestern University.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An appeal to NMHC

Mrs. Aguon and I, Milan Fargo are elderly disabled, literally homeless persons. Currently, we are housed by the CNMI CCERA Office until Oct. 9, 2024. As low-income individuals, we need Northern Marianas Housing Corp. to pay the rent after the deadline.

Since May 13, NMHC has our request but did nothing to house us within the Section 8 provisions. We waited four months!

On Sept. 9, we had to ask for rapid housing under the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act. Only nine days left until we find ourselves on the streets again but NMHC is not willing to do what U.S. housing regulations demand.

For years and years of asking, Mrs. Aguon was never given a roof taking into account her individual circumstances. I, Milan Fargo, was rapidly housed from January 2018 to October 2019 and under the act, NMHC was, during this period, took care of housing me permanently.

It is what the law says. NMHC did nothing, violated the act, made me from Oct. 4, 2019 to Aug. 9, 2023, exist on the streets. For 46 months, during COVID times, NMHC made me exist on the streets violating the President's order that during the COVID disaster, no human should be left without a roof over their heads!

Now, NMHC looks like it's willing to repeat and disobey the law again: they avoid any response by email or by sending official notification to my PO box. They want to see me—a PhD in economics, the father of Minimicroeconomics, its by-product Business Accuracy Business, and its tools—on the streets again. They treat me worse than a dog! Their eyes are blind to housing a person who created something of national importance by taking our nation to new heights of prosperity.

We, the disabled elderly, cannot stand alone to blatant inactions from NMHC's side.

Mrs. Aguon and Fargo Milan

Via email

UN

From page 6

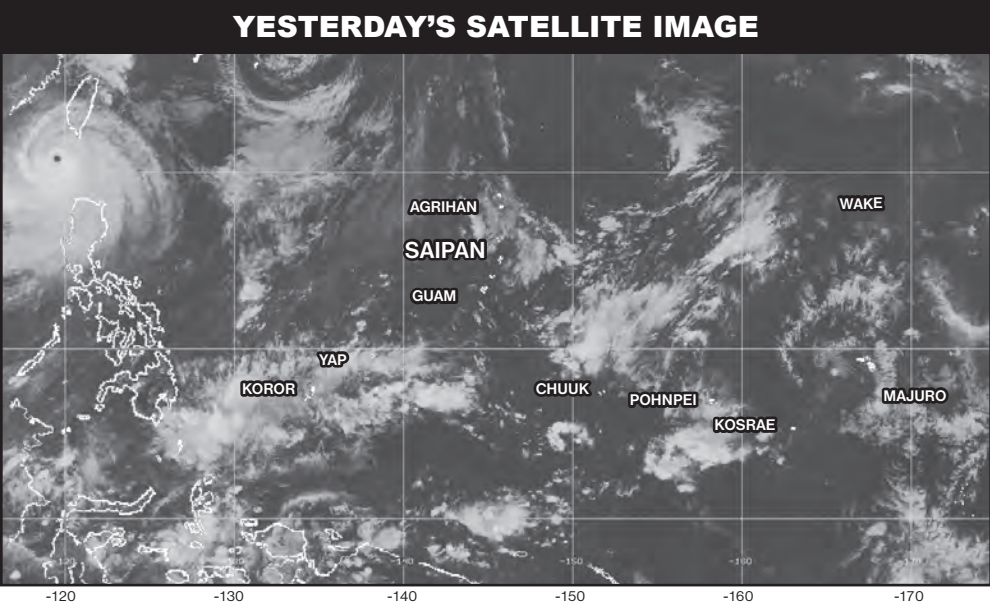
While that admonition was for assembled presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and others, it might also have been meant for former President Donald Trump, who if elected threatens to alienate the alliances Biden bolstered while accommodating authoritarians who pose a continuing threat to democracy.

Indeed, the next American president will likely reap a global whirlwind. That leader must understand the geopolitical complexity and consequences of exceedingly dangerous conflicts that continue to burn worldwide.

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The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 5:39 AM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overnight, isolated showers have increased in Guam and Rota regions. These showers are expected to build to scattered showers today. Tinian and Saipan are expected to remain isolated today. The forecast zones were split to reflect this. Starting Wednesday afternoon or evening, all of the Marianas can expect scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the week is expected to be wet. Seas are expected to remain fairly benign 3 to 5 feet. Winds are expected to be light to moderate with occasional gusts to strong for Guam and Rota for Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:05 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:04 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:27 AM	5:46 PM	-
Thursday	6:13 AM	6:18 PM	-
Friday	6:59 AM	6:52 PM	-
Saturday	7:46 AM	7:28 PM	-
Sunday	8:36 AM	8:07 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	72° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	91° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Showers	61° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	77° / 64°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
New York	Sunny	74° / 60°	
Osaka	Showers	77° / 64°	
Paris	Showers	64° / 52°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	73° / 63°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	73° / 61°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 64°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	75° / 58°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:32 AM	Low Tide	0.60	
7:15 AM	High Tide	1.75	
1:35 PM	Low Tide	0.47	
7:35 PM	High Tide	1.80	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Sep 2-8	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 6, 7 Sep 9-15	7C3472	11:00AM	4:40PM	Sep 15-18
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily Sep 16-22	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	7 Sep 1
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	1, 7 Sep 23-29	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 7 Sep 2-8
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	1, 5, 6, 7 Sep 9-15
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily Sep 16-22
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Sep 15-18				1, 7 Sep 23-29
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily
				HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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OIA announces \$2.6M in CNRF to protect natural resources, biodiversity in Insular Areas

KOROR, Palau—The U.S. Department of the Interior's assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor announced \$2,624,848 in grant awards under the Office of Insular Affairs' Coral Reef and Natural Resources Initiative to protect natural resources and biodiversity in the Insular Areas. While in the Republic of Palau for Palau's 30th anniversary of independence assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor presented a check for \$314,086 in CRNR funding to Palau. They will their funding award to develop its System of Natural Accounts in connection with the United Nations System of Environment-Economic Accounting program to compile

and assess the conditions and statistical value of natural resources such as mangrove, seagrass, and corals.

"It is fitting to commemorate Palau's 30th anniversary of independence with a grant that emphasizes Palau's strong reputation as the protector of natural resources for its people," said Cantor. "Palau has been a regional leader in demonstrating that a clean and healthy environment is inextricably linked to the health and economic interests of its local communities. These grant funds will help Palau organize data on its environment and natural resources and support economic decision-making that considers these important assets."

The complete list of awards

for CRNR funding in FY 2024, totals \$2,624,848 and is to be distributed across the Insular Areas as follows:

American Samoa — \$245,000

Funds will support the American Samoa Biodiversity Office in efforts to manage invasive bird populations in Tutuila's northern, mountainous villages and to mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity in the territory.

CNMI — \$948,281

■ \$325,929 will support the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' efforts to mitigate the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) on Rota;

■ \$286,837 will support

the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality' Coral Reef Initiative program and related projects;

■ \$171,335 will support the DLNR's efforts to mitigate the harmful impacts of the Velvet Bean (*Mucuna pruriens*) on communities in Saipan; and

■ \$164,180 will also support the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance Tasi-Watch program which supports terrestrial and marine conservation projects such as mono-filament debris collection, coral nursery restoration, typhoon cleanup, native tree restoration, and combatting the invasive Crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*).

Guam — \$293,511

■ Funds will support the Guam Department of Agriculture's FY2024 Coral Reef Initiative for management, coordination, education, outreach, research, and regional coordination related to the protection of coral reef natural resources.

Republic of Palau — \$314,086

Funds will support development of Palau's System of Natural Accounts in connection with the United Nations System of Environment-Economic Accounting program to compile and assess conditions of natural resources such as mangrove, seagrass, and corals.

U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) — \$599,970

■ \$300,000 in funds will support the Division of Coastal Zone Management in managing coral disturbance response in the territory; and

■ \$299,970 in funds will also support the Center for Watershed Protection, Inc. in efforts to develop nature-based solutions to restore the Salt River Bay Watershed in St. Croix.

National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program — \$224,000

Funds will be awarded to Nova Southeastern University to include Coral Reef fellows for the territories of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, and the USVI in the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship program, which is funded by NOAA, but currently excludes the territories.

Discretionary funding for the Insular Areas is made available every year through a competitive grant application process that opens for applications each year in October on Grants.gov under Assistance Listing number 15.875 (formerly CFDA#). More information about these and other funding provided to the Insular Areas may be found at www.doi.gov/oia.

The assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carries out the secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. (PR)

Council creates Indigenous Committee to strengthen traditional voices in Pacific fisheries

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Concluding its 200th meeting, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council established an Indigenous Committee to provide recommendations to federal authorities on cultural fishing rights and related issues.

Sub-panels for Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI will include members with expertise in traditional fishing practices and community ocean activities in their respective regions. The new committee will augment the Council's Fishery Rights of Indigenous People Standing Committee, which was established in the mid-1980s.

Throughout its 48-year history, the council has addressed indigenous issues and sought to modify the impact of federal fishery management on Native Hawaiians, Samoans, Chamorros and Carolinians, who have fished in the Western Pacific for centuries.

With the growing emphasis on ecosystem-based management, traditional ecological knowledge, equity, and environmental justice, the council created the new Indigenous Committee to ensure culturally relevant recommendations that include indigenous perspectives in the region's decision-making process.

The council requested a presentation on how the recognition process for indigenous peoples could work and the benefits an existing system now provides to Native American Tribes. Currently, the United States does not recognize the indigenous peoples of the Western Pacific Region—Kānaka Maoli, Samoans, CHamoru and Refaluwasch—in the same way it does federal Native American Tribes. This difference puts the Pacific groups at a disadvantage in federal relations.

The Endangered Species Act, for example, allows subsistence use of endangered

species as a food source for Native American Tribes, but such exceptions were not considered for regional indigenous peoples when the U.S. entered international agreements to protect green sea turtles, a traditional food in the Pacific. Expanded recognition could address existing and future issues affecting Pacific Islanders.

National Marine Sanctuaries in the Pacific

The council reviewed a NOAA status update on the proposed national marine sanctuaries in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and Pacific Remote Islands. Since March 2024, public hearings have been held across the Hawaiian islands on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the NWHI sanctuary, with no action yet reported on a draft EIS for the PRI sanctuary.

The council expressed concerns over the process for establishing fishing regulations under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, section 304(a)(5), contending it fails to provide a clear rationale for why such regulations are necessary. The council stressed the need for assessing potential threats to sanctuary resources—including fishing—before determining regulations to address those concerns.

The council bid a fond farewell to Manny Dueñas from Guam whose three-year term ended in August 2024. He was a member of the council for a total of 12 years, having previously served between 2003 and 2012, including as chair from 2011-2012. Dueñas has led the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association for nearly 40 years, and has been a passionate champion of his culture and fishing rights. During his tenure, the council provided funds supporting

projects for indigenous fishing practices throughout the Western Pacific Region. Seabird, sea turtle and oceanic whitetip shark bycatch mitigation measures were established for the Hawaii longline fishery. A major restructuring of managing fisheries was adopted by the council—instead of species-based, four archipelago ecosystem plans were developed for American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii.

The council's 201st meeting will be held virtually Dec. 16-18, 2024. Major agenda items will include actions on the Guam bottomfish rebuilding plan, striped marlin stock sustainability, uku stock assessment and catch limits in Hawaii, longline vessel crew training and electronic monitoring. Information will be posted on our website at www.wpcouncil.org/meetings-calendars. (PR)

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Business

Dockworkers at ports from Maine to Texas go on strike

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Dockworkers at ports from Maine to Texas began walking picket lines early Tuesday in a strike over wages and automation that could reignite inflation and cause shortages of goods if it goes on more than a few weeks.

The contract between the ports and about 45,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association expired at midnight, and even though progress was reported in talks on Monday, the workers went on strike. The strike affecting 36 ports is the first by the union since 1977.

Workers began picketing at the Port of Philadelphia shortly after midnight, walking in a circle at a rail crossing outside the port and chanting "No work without a fair contract."

The union had message boards on the side of a truck reading: "Automation Hurts Families: ILA Stands For Job Protection."

The U.S. Maritime Alliance, which represents the ports, said Monday evening that both sides had moved off of their previous wage offers, but when picket lines went up just after midnight, it was apparent that no deal had been reached.

The union's opening offer in the talks was for a 77% pay raise over the six-year life of the contract, with President Harold Daggett saying it's necessary to make up for inflation and years of small raises. ILA members make a base salary of about \$81,000 per year, but some can pull in over \$200,000 annually with large amounts of overtime.

But Monday evening, the alliance said it had increased its offer to 50% raises over six years, and it pledged to keep limits on automation in place from the old contract. The union wants a complete ban on automation. It wasn't clear just how far apart both sides are.

"We are hopeful that this

could allow us to fully resume collective bargaining around the other outstanding issues in an effort to reach an agreement," the alliance statement said.

The union didn't answer requests for comment on the talks Monday night, but said earlier in the day that the ports had refused demands for a fair contract and the alliance seemed intent on a strike. The two sides had not held formal negotiations since June.

The alliance said its offer tripled employer contributions to retirement plans and strengthened health care options.

During the day Monday, some ports already were preparing for a strike. The Port of Virginia, for instance, was in the process of ceasing operations. It accepted the last inbound train for delivery at 8 a.m., closed its gates to inbound trucks at noon and required ships to leave by 1 p.m. Cargo operations halted at 6 p.m.

World

Israel begins ground offensive vs. Hezbollah in southern Lebanon

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli ground forces crossed into southern Lebanon early Tuesday, marking a significant escalation of an offensive against Hezbollah militants and opening a new front in a yearlong war against its Iranian-backed adversaries.

The incursion follows weeks of heavy blows by Israel against Hezbollah—including an airstrike that killed its longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah—and seeks to step up the pressure on the group, which began firing rockets into northern Israel after the start of the war in Gaza. The last time Israel and Hezbollah engaged in ground combat was a monthlong war in 2006.

The Israeli military said in a brief statement that it began "limited, localized and targeted ground raids" against Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon.

"These targets are located in villages close to the bor-

der and pose an immediate threat to Israeli communities in northern Israel," it said.

There was no word on how long the operation would last, but the army said soldiers had been training and preparing for the mission in recent months. Israel has said it will continue to strike the group until it is safe for displaced Israelis from border communities to return to their homes.

Ahead of the Israeli announcement, United States officials said Israel launched small ground raids inside Lebanon, and Israel declared three small border communities to be a "closed military zone," restricting access only to army personnel.

There were no reports of direct clashes between Israeli troops and Hezbollah militants. But throughout the evening, Israeli artillery units pounded targets in southern Lebanon and the sounds of airstrikes were heard throughout Beirut.

Smoke rose from the capi-

tal's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence, shortly after Israel ordered residents of three buildings to evacuate.

Israel has been emboldened by its recent battlefield gains against Hezbollah and appears intent on delivering a knockout blow to its arch-enemy. But a ground operation marks a new and potentially risky phase of fighting. It also threatens to unleash further devastation on Lebanon, where hundreds have been killed in recent Israeli strikes and hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

Hezbollah is a well-trained militia, believed to have tens of thousands of fighters and an arsenal of 150,000 rockets and missiles. The last round of fighting in 2006 ended in a stalemate.

Both sides have spent the past two decades preparing for their next showdown. While Hezbollah has built up a formidable arsenal, Israel has invested great sums into training and intelligence gathering.

Russia proposes record defense spending as it pursues victory in the Ukraine war

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—The Russian government wants to earmark 32.5% of its spending next year for defense, a record amount and up from a reported 28.3% this year, as Moscow seeks to prevail in the war in Ukraine.

The government's draft budget released Monday proposes spending just under 13.5 trillion rubles (over \$145 billion) on national defense. That is about 3 trillion rubles (\$32 billion) more than was set aside for defense this year and was the previous record.

The Ukraine war is Europe's biggest conflict since World War II and has drained the resources of both sides, with Ukraine getting billions of dollars in help from its Western allies.

Russia's forces are bigger and better-equipped than Ukraine's, and in recent months the Russian army has gradually been pushing Ukrainian troops backward in eastern areas.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the United States last week in pursuit of continuing financial and military support as the war approaches its three-year milestone next February.

Russian President Vladi-

mir Putin is also looking how to sustain his war effort as military spending has placed a huge strain on the Russian economy.

Earlier this month, Russia's central bank raised its key interest rate by a full percentage point to 19% to combat high inflation. It held out the prospect of more rate increases to return inflation from the current 9.1% to the bank's target of 4% in 2025.

According to the draft budget, spending on defense should decline in 2026.

The proposed budget could still change as it goes through three readings in the State Duma, Russia's lower parliament house, and then goes to the Federation Council, the upper house, before Russian President Vladimir Putin signs it into law.

Meanwhile, Putin on Monday signed a call-up order for 133,000 conscripts in the autumn military draft, which is a routine number for seasonal conscription campaigns.

In September, he ordered the country's military to increase Russia's number of troops by 180,000 to a total of 1.5 million. Overall military personnel would be about 2.4 million.

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Life & Style

Movie armorer's conviction upheld in fatal 'Rust' set shooting by Alec Baldwin

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A New Mexico judge on Monday upheld an involuntary manslaughter conviction against a movie armorer in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the Western film "Rust."

Armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed asked a court to dismiss her conviction or convene a new trial, alleging that prosecutors failed to share evidence that could have cleared her.

Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer in her written order noted

that the armorer's attorneys did not establish that there was a reasonable possibility that the outcome of the trial would have been different had the evidence been available to Gutierrez-Reed.

The judge also rejected a request from Gutierrez-Reed that she be released from custody, saying it was moot because the request for a new trial was denied.

Marlow Sommer halted and ended Baldwin's trial in July based on misconduct of



Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, center, with her attorney Jason Bowles, left, and paralegal Carmella Sisneros, right, prepare for a sentencing hearing in state district court in Santa Fe, N.M., April 15, 2024.

A jury convicted Gutierrez-Reed of involuntary manslaughter in March in a trial overseen by Marlowe Sommer, who later sentenced her to the maximum 18-month penalty. Gutierrez-Reed has an appeal of the conviction pending in a higher court. Jurors acquitted her of allegations she tampered with evidence in the "Rust" investigation.

Prosecutors blamed Gutierrez-Reed for unwittingly bringing live ammunition onto the set of "Rust" and for failing to follow basic gun safety protocols.

Evidence that Gutierrez-Reed's attorneys said prosecutors failed to share included a report by a firearms expert about the functionality of the gun that Baldwin used, ammunition that was later turned in to authorities and an interview with "Rust" ammunition supplier Seth Kenney.

Defense attorneys did not immediately respond Monday to an email requesting comment on the judge's decision.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs appeals for release while he awaits sex trafficking trial

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean "Diddy" Combs is appealing a federal judge's decision to keep him in jail while he awaits trial on sex trafficking charges.

The hip-hop mogul's lawyers filed a notice of appeal Monday in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after previously saying they would ask the appeals court to overturn Judge Andrew L. Carter's ruling and release him.

Combs, 54, has been locked up at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn since pleaded not guilty Sept. 17 to charges that he used his "power and prestige" to induce female victims into drugged-up, elaborately produced sexual performances with male sex workers in events dubbed "Freak Offs."

Carter rejected a defense proposal that would've al-

lowed the "I'll Be Missing You" singer to be placed under house arrest at his Florida mansion with GPS monitoring and strict limits on visitors.

The judge said the plan, which included a \$50 million bail offer, was "insufficient" to ensure the safety of the community and the integrity of Combs' case. Carter said that "no condition or set of conditions" for Combs' release could guard against the risk of him threatening or harming witnesses.

Combs' lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, had suggested moving him from the Brooklyn jail, which has been plagued by rampant violence and horrific conditions, to one in Essex County, New Jersey. He later abandoned that idea.

Combs is due back in court for a status conference on Oct. 9.

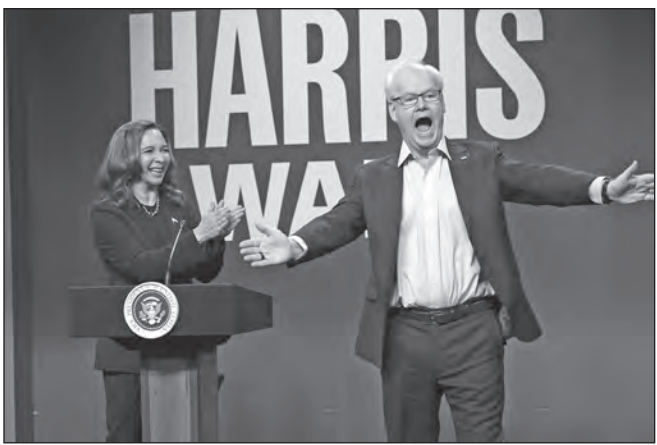
'SNL' 50th season premiere gets more than 5M viewers, its best opener since 2020

NEW YORK (AP)—The 50th season of "Saturday Night Live" is off to a strong ratings start and is a record-breaker for the streaming service Peacock.

NBC said Monday that 5.3 million people watched the premiere live, the best opening for the show since 2020, when Alec Baldwin reprised his role as then-President Donald Trump and Chris Rock hosted with musical guest Megan Thee Stallion.

The sketch comedy show welcomed back several alums this weekend for its opening skit about this year's U.S. presidential race, with Maya Rudolph playing Kamala Harris and Dana Carvey playing President Joe Biden.

The episode is the most-watched "SNL" ever on



This image released by NBC shows Maya Rudolph as Kamala Harris, left, and Jim Gaffigan as Tim Walz, during the cold open sketch on "Saturday Night Live" in New York on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2024.

Peacock in its first weekend, NBC said.

Jean Smart hosted the 50th season premiere and country sensation Jelly Roll was the musical guest.

The opening sketch could be a preview of the season ahead, with alum Andy Samberg returning to play Harris' husband, Doug Emhoff, and actor-comedian Jim Gaffigan

playing Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. Only Rudolph as Harris was expected, although "SNL" hadn't confirmed she would reprise the role.

The first "SNL" episode aired Oct. 11, 1975, with Lorne Michaels at the helm, just as he is now.

George Carlin hosted then and the show introduced its first cast of the so-called Not Ready for Prime Time Players: Chevy Chase, John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Dan Aykroyd, Jane Curtin, Laraine Newman and Garrett Morris.

Comedian Nate Bargatze is hosting this weekend's "SNL," with Coldplay appearing as the musical guest. NBC will air a three-hour live "SNL" celebration on Feb. 16 to mark the anniversary.

Boyfriend's ex-wife likes to stir the pot

DEAR ABBY: I am dating an older man with two ex-wives. I have met both of them. I don't mind them. The last ex-wife and I get along. She usually calls me because he won't answer his phone for her. The first ex-wife I don't like at all (I used to talk to her) because she's lied to me about him.

This woman has her kids call and tell him to call her (which he sneaks around to do), among other things. She talks smack about two of her kids with him (supposedly his), and she cheated on him numerous times. Anytime we see her, which is usually at one of the kids' houses, she or he runs to give the other a hug. I think this is very wrong and I've twice said something to him.

Am I wrong? Am I jealous? He says they don't want to be with each other, they're just friends, but I don't trust her. I feel like she's trying to start trouble. (Not to mention, one of the kids remarked, "If Mom wanted him back, she could get him.") I respect your opinion. Please help me.

AM I RIGHT OR WRONG?

DEAR RIGHT OR WRONG: Many divorced couples try to keep things amicable for the sake of their children. Your twice-married boyfriend may be one of them. If you trust what he says, his first ex-wife isn't likely to wreck your relationship unless your insecurity allows it. If you cannot trust this man's word, you should no longer be together.

What the kid said hasn't helped the situation. Please do not let it cause trouble in your relationship with their father.

DEAR ABBY: I filed for divorce nine months ago. The judge signed my papers six weeks ago. I was with my alcoholic ex for 17 years, married for 12. I knew my marriage was over a year ago, so I was preparing myself.

Four months ago, I met "Aaron," a man I have grown to really like. He feels the same, but my sisters feel I shouldn't be thinking about a relationship. My kids are grown and out of the house. They have met Aaron and say, "Whatever makes you happy," but I'm afraid if my sisters find out I'm seeing someone, they are going to be negative. I really want them to know how happy I am, but I'm not sure if I should say anything just yet. Please help.

FREE, NOT FREE, IN IOWA

DEAR FREE, NOT FREE: You have only recently emerged from a long and difficult marriage, which has to have been stressful and depressing. Right now you are on an emotional high. Your sisters are giving you good advice. Slow down!

If what you and Aaron have together is as good as you think, keep seeing him and get to know each other better. Stop hiding him from your sisters and introduce him. But when you do, tell them you are not jumping from the frying

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

pan into the fire and plan to spend time getting to know him before making any permanent decisions. You have earned that right.

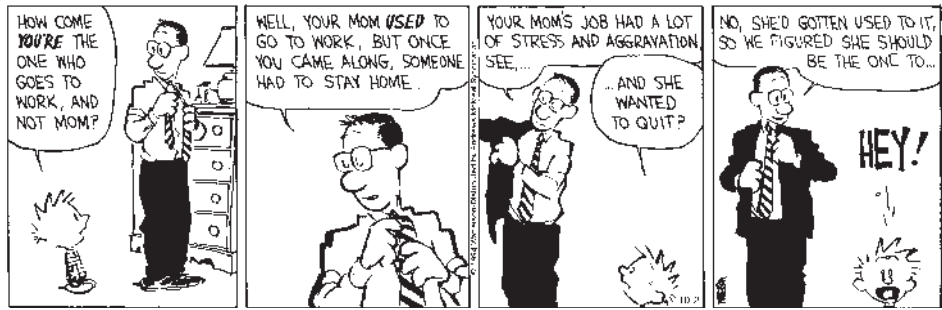
TO THOSE WHO CELEBRATE ROSH HASHANA: At sundown tonight, the Jewish New Year begins. During this time of solemn introspection, I wish my Jewish readers "L'shana tova tikatevu"—may you be inscribed in the Book of Life and have a good year.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



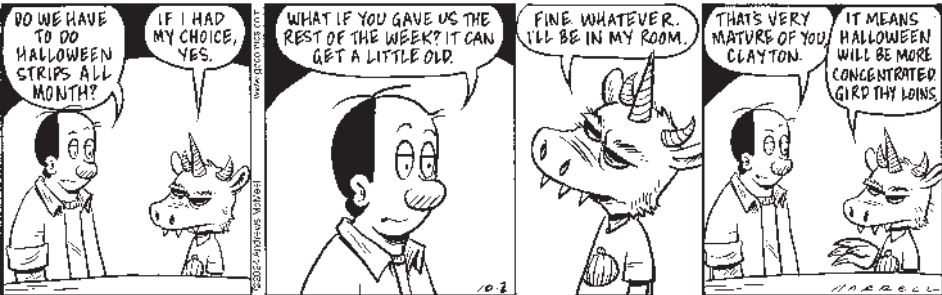
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



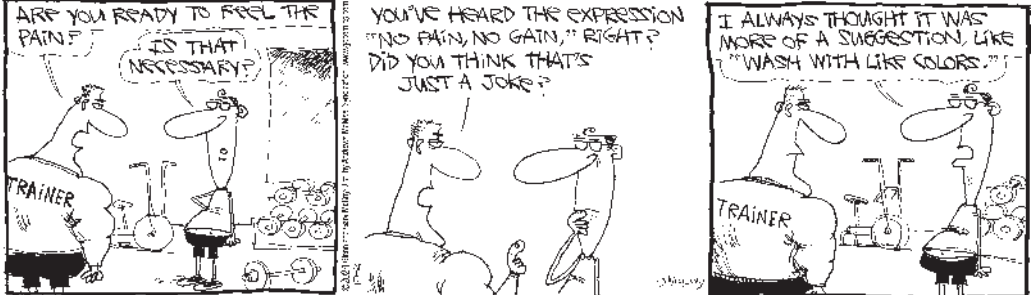
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stand-up comic Margaret

4 Lob's path

7 Gumbo or bisque, e.g.

8 Arm rest?

10 Purse fastener

11 Shoe parts

13 Idle gossip

16 Rds.

17 Clear wrap

18 Otto — Bis-marck

19 Greek cheese

20 "Present!"

21 Humiliate

23 Berate

25 Help a thief

26 Confer-ence leader?

DOWN

12 Duel tool

14 Kismet

15 SSW opposite

19 Blubber

20 Weeding tool

21 Roughly

22 Light-house

23 Son of Adam and Eve

24 Lawyer's customers

25 Entirely

26 Boxer's dream

28 Land-scaping plant

29 Blazing

30 Pick up the tab

31 Suggestive

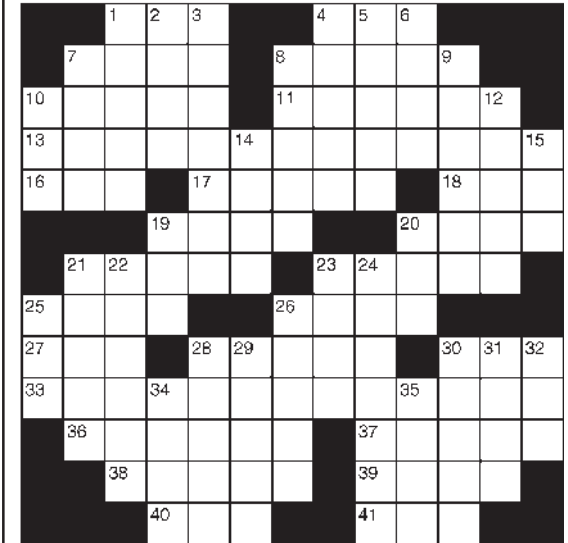
32 Shock partner

34 Shoelace snarl

35 Tragic

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-2



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Ripa, 54; Sting, 73; Annie Leibovitz, 75; Donna Karan, 76.

Happy Birthday: Take the necessary steps to initiate change and restructure your investments, lifestyle and purpose to reach your comfort zone. All talk without action will frustrate you and those watching from the sidelines who love and want the best for you. Broaden your vision, create a template and head down a path that encompasses your dreams. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Be brave, don't look back and follow your heart. Your numbers are 3, 9, 14, 26, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Establish what's important to you and adjust to achieve budget, convenience and comfort levels within reason. Take control of your situation, but be fair to those swept up in your plans. Offer incentives that make it easier to achieve your expectations without guilt. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pay attention to how others respond; it will help you make better choices and gain support and hands-on help. Once you begin to transition, dedication will carry you forward. Your strength and momentum are connected to those you surround yourself with and in being a team player. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get out and explore the possibilities. Network, socialize and participate in events that offer exciting alternatives. Let your mind wander, but don't buy into someone else's dream. Research will pay off and encourage you to back yourself. Engage in finishing what you start and saving for the future. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll do best working toward and tidying up loose ends. Someone will interfere with your progress if given the chance. Don't share informa-

tion or allow anyone to interfere in your business or progress. Avoid run-ins with associates, friends and relatives. Choose peace over discord. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Pay attention to detail, how others respond and broadening your awareness of your pursuits. Facts are vital to decision-making and are best acknowledged before committing time, money or skills. Focus on personal gains, growth and better health while you sort out how you want to proceed with others. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Lower overhead and reduce commitments. Assess your current needs and distribute your energy wisely. Taking on a physical challenge will help alleviate stress and encourage you to adjust your lifestyle to achieve your goals. Love, romance, fitness and self-improvement are on the rise. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Now is not the time to sit on the sideline. Embrace the future with optimism and confidence, and put your energy into a physical move that offers better prospects and returns. Take your skills to the next level and utilize them. Be a forerunner, not a follower. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make your life better by pursuing your goals. Home improvements and expanding your skills to include something you enjoy doing that can bring in cash will give you a new lease on life. Don't wait for things to come to you. Be adventurous and make things happen. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Integrate what you love into your daily routine. Being a part of something that offers excitement, challenge and expansion will motivate you to mix business with pleasure to ensure you enjoy every aspect of your life. Create a platform that is conducive to your happiness. *****

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty: ★★★

10/2

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★

10/1

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen, but refrain from buying into someone else's plans. Live by your rules and follow your dreams. Learn from your mistakes and be true to yourself. Forget the past and let go of the anger it harbors. It's forward-thinking and perpetual motion that will encourage solitude and happiness. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pay attention to your investments, health and contracts. Go over every detail and give your stamp of approval to whatever resonates with you. Be open and receptive to embracing new beginnings and updating your skills, qualifications and what you have to offer others. A makeover will be uplifting. *****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take your time with your next move. Check the facts and any applicable costs, and adjust your plans to meet your demands. Time is essential, especially when dealing with investments, challenges or a physical change you want to pursue. Refuse to let anger displace your drive to reach your destination on time. ***

Birthday Baby: You are charming, intelligent and forceful. You are imaginative and optimistic.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GARBAGE BAGS

Solution: 9 letters



© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 10/2
Bag, Bathroom, Bin, Biodegradable, Black, Cans, Capacity, Collect, Colors, Disposing, Dump, Ecofriendly, Expand, Fill, Flex, Food, Full, Green, Grip, Heavy-duty, Inside, Kitchen, Large, Leaves, Lined, Liners, Load, Low-density, Material, Nylon, Paper, Plastic, Recycle, Separate, Solid, Stretch, Strong, Ties, Tins, Type, Waste, White, Wrap, Yard, Yellow
Yesterday's Answer: Secateurs
For WONDERWORD apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Pete Rose, baseball's banned hits leader, dies at age 83



NEW YORK

(AP)—Pete

Rose, baseball's career hits leader and fallen idol who undermined his historic achievements and Hall of Fame dreams by gambling on the game he loved and once embodied, has died. He was 83.

Stephanie Wheatley, a spokesperson for Clark County in Nevada, confirmed on behalf of the medical examiner that Rose died Monday. Wheatley said his cause and manner of death had not yet been determined. Over the weekend, he had appeared at an autograph show in Nashville with former teammates Tony Perez, George Foster and Dave Concepcion.

For fans who came of age in the 1960s and '70s, no player was more exciting than the Cincinnati Reds' No. 14, "Charlie Hustle," the brash superstar with the shaggy hair, puggish nose and muscular forearms. At the dawn of artificial surfaces, divisional play and free agency, Rose was old school, a conscious, dirt-stained throwback to baseball's early days. Millions could never forget him crouched and scowling at the plate, running full speed to first even after drawing a walk, or sprinting for the next base and diving headfirst into the bag.

Major League Baseball, which banished him in 1989, issued a brief statement expressing condolences and noting his "greatness, grit and



Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds in action at the bat against the Atlanta Braves in Atlanta, Aug. 2, 1978. At left is Atlanta catcher Joe Nolan

determination on the field of play." Reds principal owner and managing partner Bob Castellini said in a statement that Rose was "one of the fiercest competitors the game has ever seen" and added: "We must never forget what he accomplished."

Longtime Reds teammate and Hall of Famer Johnny Bench posted his reaction to Rose's death in a social media post, saying: "My heart is sad. I loved you Peter Edward. You made all of us better. No matter the life we led. No one can replace you."

A 17-time All-Star, the

switch-hitting Rose played on three World Series winners. He was the National League MVP in 1973 and World Series MVP two years later. He holds the major league record for games played (3,562) and plate appearances (15,890) and the NL record for the longest hitting streak (44). He was the leadoff man for one of baseball's most formidable lineups with the Reds' championship teams of 1975 and 1976, featuring Hall of Famers Perez, Bench and Joe Morgan.

But no milestone approached his 4,256 hits, breaking his hero Ty Cobb's

4,191 and signifying his excellence no matter the notoriety which followed. It was a total so extraordinary that you could average 200 hits for 20 years and still come up short. Rose's secret was consistency, and longevity. Over 24 seasons, all but six played entirely with the Reds, Rose had 200 hits or more 10 times, and more than 180 four other times. He batted .303 overall, even while switching from second base to outfield to third to first, and he led the league in hits seven times.

"Every summer, three

things are going to happen," Rose liked to say, "the grass is going to get green, the weather is going to get hot, and Pete Rose is going to get 200 hits and bat .300."

Rose was Rookie of the Year in 1963, but he started off 0 for 12 with three walks and a hit by pitch before getting his first major league hit, an eighth-inning triple off Pittsburgh's Bob Friend. It came in Cincinnati on April 13, 1963, the day before Rose's 22nd birthday. He reached 1,000 in 1968, 2,000 just five years later and 3,000 just five years after that.

He moved into second place, ahead of Hank Aaron, with hit No. 3,772, in 1982. No. 4,000 was off the Phillies' Jerry Koosman in 1984, exactly 21 years to the day after his first hit. He caught up with Cobb on Sept. 8, 1985, and surpassed him three days later, in Cincinnati, with Rose's mother and teenage son, Pete Jr., among those in attendance.

Rose was 44 and the team's player-manager. Batting left-handed against the San Diego Padres' Eric Show in the first inning, he smacked a 2-1 slider into left field, a clean single. The crowd of 47,000-plus stood and yelled. The game was halted to celebrate. Rose was given the ball and the first base bag, then wept openly on the shoulder of first base coach and former teammate, Tommy Helms. He told Pete Jr., who would later play briefly for the Reds: "I love you, and I hope you pass me." He thought of

his late father, a star athlete himself who had pushed him to play sports since childhood. And he thought of Cobb, the dead-ball era slasher whom Rose so emulated that he named another son Tyler.

Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth, watching from New York, declared that Rose had "reserved a prominent spot in Cooperstown." After the game, a 2-0 win for the Reds in which Rose scored both runs, he received a phone call from President Ronald Reagan.

"Your reputation and legacy are secure," Reagan told him. "It will be a long time before anyone is standing in the spot where you're standing now."

Four years later, he was gone.

On March 20, 1989, Ueberroth (who would soon be succeeded by A. Bartlett Giamatti) announced that his office was conducting a "full inquiry into serious allegations" about Rose. Reports emerged that he had been relying on a network of bookies and friends and others in the gambling world to place bets on baseball games, including some with the Reds. Rose denied any wrongdoing, but the investigation found that the "accumulated testimony of witnesses, together with the documentary evidence and telephone records reveal extensive betting activity by Pete Rose in connection with professional baseball and, in particular, Cincinnati Reds games, during the 1985, 1986, and 1987 baseball seasons."

Braves salvage playoff berth with 3-0 win over Mets, who win thrilling opener 8-7 to clinch

ATLANTA (AP)—A final day that wasn't on the schedule and won't soon be forgotten.

An improbable comeback by the New York Mets in the opening game of a makeup doubleheader to secure their playoff berth. A gritty recovery by the Atlanta Braves in the nightcap, stamping their postseason ticket as well.

And all the Arizona Diamondbacks could do was watch hopelessly from the desert, their hopes snuffed out by two games on the other side of the country.

"You're just focused on getting into the postseason," said Braves first baseman Matt Olson, soaked in champagne as he celebrated a 3-0 win in the last game of the regular season. "Whatever it took. If we had to play four games today, we would have done it."

The regular season went to extra innings after the Mets and Braves had a pair of games rained out last week by Hurricane Helene. They controlled their own fates, with

each holding a tiebreaker edge over the defending NL champion Diamondbacks.

Arizona needed one team to sweep, so they were pulling for the Mets after they overcame deficits of 3-0 in the eighth inning and 7-6 in the ninth to win the opener 8-7, going ahead for good on Francisco Lindor's two-run homer.

"An instant classic game," said Brandon Nimmo, whose two-run homer capped a six-run eighth.

The Braves, to their credit, bounced back to get the win they had to have. Even after ace Chris Sale was scratched because of back spasms, journeyman Grant Holmes stepped in to lead off a three-hitter spread among six pitchers.

At the end, in the perfect capper to a wacky day, there were champagne-spraying celebrations in both clubhouses at Truist Park.

Atlanta, New York and Arizona all finished 89-73.

Holmes found out he was starting about a half-hour be-

fore the first pitch.

"I was about to go get some food," said the 28-year-old Holmes, who finally made it to the big leagues this year after a decade in the minors. "They came up to me and said, 'Hey, you're going to start this one off today.' And I was like, 'Oh, OK, here we go.'"

With their postseason berth locked up, the Mets added left-hander Joey Lucchesi to the roster to start the second game. The 31-year-old left-hander spent most of the season at Triple-A Syracuse, giving up five runs in 4 1/3 innings in his lone big league appearance before Monday.

He looked like an ace against the Braves, who might've still been a bit shellshocked after the way they lost the opener. Lucchesi (0-2) allowed just three hits, including a run-scoring single to Gio Urshela, in a six-inning, 111-pitch outing.

But Marcell Ozuna gave the Braves some breathing room with a two-run single

in the seventh. Daysbel Hernandez (3-0) earned the win and Raisel Iglesias finished it off for his 34th save in 37 chances.

The Braves also got a scoreless inning from starter Reynaldo López, who had pitched six innings just two days earlier.

"I'm so proud of all those guys," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said. "It takes the whole building to make something like this happen."

The Mets were already in party mode after Lindor's 33rd homer.

Trailing 3-0, with just three singles through seven innings against rookie Spencer Schwellenbach, New York's offense came to life in the eighth.

The Mets surged ahead with their six-run outburst. The Braves stormed back with four runs in the bottom half, as Ozzie Albies delivered a bases-loaded double with two outs for a 7-6 lead—giving him five RBIs in the game after a two-run homer in the third.

But New York delivered the final blow with Lindor's drive into the Braves bullpen off Pierce Johnson (7-5).

"That was one of the craziest games I've ever been a part of," said Carlos Mendoza, the Mets rookie manager. "Just the meaning of it. Coming back in the game and then losing the lead and then coming back again in the ninth. It was unbelievable, like you should write a book."

Edwin Díaz (6-4) earned the win with a season-high 40 pitches despite giving up Albies' go-ahead hit, which came after the Mets closer failed to cover first on a play that allowed Jarred Kelenic to reach on a two-out infield hit.

Díaz demanded to return to the mound for the ninth.

"I don't care what you say, I'm going back out," he told Mendoza.

New York had lost 77 straight games when trailing by three runs in eighth inning or later since May 17, 2023. With that streak snapped,

Díaz slammed his glove to the ground and the Mets celebrated their 11th postseason berth in 63 seasons, the last coming in 2022.

"I've never seen a game like that," Mets owner Steve Cohen said.

Or a final day like that.

Atlanta had been holding back Sale since his scheduled start last week was rained out, saying they wanted to use him in an elimination game.

But the left-hander wasn't able to pitch because of back spasms, which Braves general manager Alex Anthopoulos said only cropped up after a throwing session Sunday but Snitker conceded had been an issue for some time.

"He's had it off and on all year," Snitker said. "Everybody in that room's got aches and pains at this time of year."

Sale has been ruled out for the Wild Card Series against the San Diego Padres, but the Braves are hopeful he'll be able to return if they advance to the Division Series.

Goff sets record completing all 18 passes in Lions' win over Seahawks



DETROIT (AP)—Jared Goff threw a perfect game, setting an NFL record by completing all 18 of his passes to help the Detroit Lions beat the Seattle Seahawks 42-29 Monday night.

"I just gave the game ball to somebody else, so I feel awful," Lions coach Dan Campbell said. "I knew he played a heck of a game. I did not know he was perfect."

Kurt Warner had the previous league mark for the passes without an incompleteness, going 10 for 10 for Arizona against Houston in 2005.

"It's a cool thing," Goff said. "I'm just happy we got the win."

Goff did throw an incomplete pass, but it was negated by a penalty.

"I was like, does that count?" he recalled wondering.

Goff also had a touchdown reception for the first time in his career, catching a pass from Amon-Ra St. Brown, and threw one of his two touchdown passes to the All-Pro receiver. Goff and St. Brown are the eighth duo in league history to throw and catch a touchdown from each other.

St. Brown lobbed a 7-yard pass to Goff on a trick play in the third quarter and caught an 8-yard touchdown from the quarterback in the fourth.

Goff, who threw for 292 yards, completed his first 14 passes in Detroit's previous win at Arizona to set a personal record that lasted a little more than a week. He also threw a pass over the middle to Jameson Williams, who ran away from the Seahawks for a 70-yard touchdown in the



Detroit Lions quarterback Jared Goff (16) passes during the first half of an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks, Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, in Detroit.

third quarter.

The Lions (3-1) asked Goff to throw one more time from his end zone and he was sacked for a safety with 2:01 remaining, cutting their lead to 13 points.

The Seahawks (3-1) simply could not overcome an injury-depleted defense that could not stop Detroit on the ground or through the air.

"It shows we aren't the team we want to be," Seattle coach Mike Macdonald said.

Macdonald went for it on fourth-and-4 from the De-

troit 39 early in the fourth and receiver Tyler Lockett negated a first down with pass interference, getting called for running a pick play that freed up Jaxon Smith-Njigba for a catch.

"They said he picked the guy, but I think we all saw he never made contact with him," Smith said.

Macdonald went for it again on fourth-and-goal from the Detroit 3 with 2:09 to go and Geno Smith threw a fourth straight incompleteness.

The Lions took advantage

and went ahead by 15 points with 5:23 left when Goff a high pass to St. Brown, who leaped for the catch and got both feet in the end zone.

Jahmyr Gibbs ran for two touchdowns in the second quarter and finished with 78 yards rushing. David Montgomery started the scoring barrage with a 1-yard touchdown run, capping a 10-play, 93-yard drive that took 7-plus minutes off the clock in the first quarter, and had 80 yards from scrimmage.

Smith was 38 of 56 for 395

yards with a 9-yard touchdown pass to rookie tight end AJ Barner in the third quarter on a drive he extended with a sneak on fourth down. He threw an interception in the end zone to Kerby Joseph with a minute left, sealing Seattle's first setback this season.

"Even when we were down 14, we knew we had a chance to come back," Smith said.

DK Metcalf had seven catches for 104 yards and a costly fumble at the Detroit 37 in the first quarter.

Kenneth Walker, who

gained 80 yards on 12 carries, had a career-high three touchdowns rushing.

Seahawks defensive back Julian Love left the game with a thigh injury, another blow for a defense without banged-up defensive end Uchenna Nwosu and Leonard Williams along with linebacker Jerome Baker.

Lions defensive back Brian Branch was inactive with an illness, taking a key player out of the secondary, and Pro Bowl center Frank Ragnow was out with a pectoral muscle.

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Mason Rudolph was happy to help lead the Tennessee Titans to their first win of the season on Monday, even though he felt like he didn't have to do much.

Nick Folk helped him with five field goals, and Rudolph led seven scoring drives after starter Will Levis left with a shoulder injury in the 31-12 win.

"I didn't do a whole lot, that's for sure," Rudolph said. "Tony (Pollard) and the O-line and Tyjae (Spears) just mauled them up front. Moved the ball, controlled the ball in the second half. We protected the ball there in the second half and got out with the win."

Rudolph threw for 85 yards and completed 9 of 17 passes in relief of Levis, who attempted just four passes before injuring his right throwing shoulder on a scramble.

Brian Callahan, who got

Rudolph leads Titans to first win of season over Dolphins

his first win as the Titans' coach, said Levis tried to go back in but was in pain. Tennessee's upcoming bye week factored into the decision to hold him out.

Folk made field goals of 53, 52, 47, 51 and 29 yards. Spears took a direct snap and ran it in for a 7-yard touchdown. Pollard had a 4-yard touchdown run to go with 88 yards on 22 carries. The Titans (1-3) rushed for 142 yards.

"I knew the style of game we needed to play to win this game," Callahan said. "I knew that they were going to have some trouble offensively, and I knew that we were going to be able to run the ball effectively on them."

Tyler Huntley, who signed with the Dolphins on Sept. 17 off Baltimore's practice squad, ran for a touchdown

and had 96 yards passing. But the Dolphins' offense continued to struggle without Tua Tagovailoa, who remains on injured reserve with a concussion.

Huntley was named starter on Saturday, as No. 2 quarterback Skylar Thompson nurses a rib injury.

"I felt pretty comfortable," Huntley said. "Just now I got to dig in deeper and just know the ins and outs of the offense, and it will take our offense to another level."

Huntley brought the Dolphins (1-3) within 10 when he scored on a 1-yard run with 3:40 left. He was intercepted on the two-point conversion attempt, and the Titans recovered the ensuing onside kick.

Huntley was called for intentional grounding in the end zone on Miami's last effort at

a comeback, adding two more points for the Titans.

Tyreek Hill was held under 50 yards receiving for the third straight game with 23 yards on four catches, as the Dolphins managed just 78 yards passing.

Titans receiver DeAndre Hopkins was also quiet with two catches for 31 yards.

Levis threw for 25 yards with an interception before the injury.

Linebacker Emmanuel Ogbah intercepted Levis and secured the ball between his knees to end a promising opening drive for the Titans.

The Dolphins gave it right back when Huntley threw a backward pass to Hill that went off the receiver's finger tips. It was initially ruled an incomplete pass but after review, it was overturned to a fumble that

Tennessee recovered.

That was the first takeaway of the season for the Titans, who entered the game with a minus-7 turnover differential.

It was also the first of numerous miscues for the Dolphins: two players in motion at the snap multiple times, uncharacteristic drops by playmakers and an overall inability to sustain drives.

A puzzling sequence happened just before halftime. Miami got the ball after forcing a punt with about a minute left in the second. Defensive tackle Calais Campbell got a hand on the ball as Ryan Stonehouse tried to boot it away. Linebacker Duke Riley then tried to grab the bouncing punt but appeared to lose it in a scrum.

After a lengthy review, officials ruled that Tennessee

touched the ball first, giving the Dolphins possession.

They did nothing with it, instead handing it back to the Titans after Huntley couldn't corral a bad snap.

Rudolph then moved the Tennessee offense into field goal territory and spiked it with 1 second left. Folk made his third field goal of the night.


It all led to loud boos coming from the crowd at Hard Rock Stadium as the Dolphins headed to halftime trailing 9-3 and were held without a touchdown for the eighth straight quarter.

The Dolphins have not led a game at all this season. Their only win came in the opener on a walk-off field goal by Jason Sanders. Sanders made kicks of 44 and 56 yards.

"There's a major disconnect between preparation and execution," Dolphins coach Mike McDaniels said.

Dikembe Mutombo dies at 58 from brain cancer

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

 Dikembe Mutombo, a Basketball Hall of Famer who was one of the best defensive players in NBA history and a longtime global ambassador for the game, died Monday from brain cancer, the league announced.

CARDINALS

From page 16

mez and their defense put in the work to keep the Padres from initiating a rally.

Cardinals head coach Juan Manibusan said after the finals that most of the team members are the same as their team last year. In the finals, he said, “We had the defense tonight. We don’t have much offense because their ace pitcher is out tonight. But all the boys worked hard and worked as a team. And that’s how you get to be the champ—work as a team.”

On whether they had an inkling that they’ll take the

He was 58.

His family revealed two years ago that he was undergoing treatment in Atlanta for a brain tumor. The NBA said he died surrounded by his family.

“Dikembe Mutombo was simply larger than life,” NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. “On the court,

championship on game two that night, he said, “We didn’t pocket it but we knew we were going to take it because we had the advantage already. We took game one and we really wanted to take game two because we really wanted to end it tonight.”

As for how the season went, he said, “It was kind of long. We only played 10 games out of 12 because there are 13 teams, so we didn’t get to play against the Padres in the regular season. It was our first time playing against them.”

The manager of the Cardinals is Pat Tenorio, while the assistant coach is Chuck Cabrera. The finals roster with Vil-

he was one of the greatest shot blockers and defensive players in the history of the NBA. Off the floor, he poured his heart and soul into helping others.”

Mutombo was distinctive in so many ways—the playful finger wag at opponents after blocking their shots, his height, his deep and grav-

lagomez, Sablan, Tony Tenorio, and Camacho, included Jerald Cabrera, Nokki Saralu, Eli Aughenbaugh, Brian Camacho, Pat Tenorio Jr., Tyler Flores, and Peter Tenorio.

The Cardinals were the fourth seed in the regular season and ousted No. 1 seed Falcons during the semis. They then took on No. 3 seed Padres and made light work of them in Game 1 with a 17-8 blow-out last Sept. 25.

After the finals, there was an awards ceremony where they announced the season’s individual winners and the winning teams. Results of that will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

elly voice, his massive smile. Players of this generation were always drawn to him and Philadelphia 76ers star Joel Embiid, who was born in Cameroon, looked to Mutombo as an inspiration.

“It’s a sad day, especially for us Africans, and really the whole world,” Embiid said Monday. “Other than what he’s accomplished on the basketball court, I think he was even better off the court. He’s one of the guys that I look up to, as far as having an impact, not just on the court, but off the court. He’s done a lot of great things. He did a lot of great things for a lot of people. He was a role model of mine. It is a sad day.”

Mutombo spent 18 seasons in the NBA, playing for Denver, Atlanta, Houston,



The Atlanta Hawks’ Dikembe Mutombo, left, drives to the hoop against the Chicago Bulls’ Dennis Rodman during the second quarter of their playoff game Thursday, May 8, 1997, in Chicago.

Philadelphia, New York and the then-New Jersey Nets. The 7-foot-2 center out of Georgetown was an eight-time All-Star, three-time All-NBA selection and went into the Hall of Fame in 2015 after averaging 9.8 points and 10.3 rebounds per game for his career.

He also was part of one of the league’s most iconic playoff moments, helping eighth-seeded Denver oust top-seeded Seattle in the first round of the 1994 Western Conference playoffs. That best-of-five series marked the first time a No. 8 beat a No. 1 in NBA history.

BSS

From page 16

the past two qualifiers as in the boys division, Grace Christian Academy Eagles’ Beau Bauer powered through with a time of 7:05. Second was SVES’ O’Marion Reyes at 7:29, and third was SIS’ Gabriel Walsh with 7:39.

For the girls, Lovel Spaeth came out on top for the third time just a second behind Bauer at 7:06. Second was Angela You of Agape Christian School Torchbearers over a minute later at 8:09, and third was BSS’ Claire Fehrenbacker at 8:12.

In the 2-mile course of the

middle school division, the Lady Geckos placed first again for the third time with 12 points; second was Dandan Middle School Tottots at 35; and third was Hopwood Middle School Hilitais with 46.

The boys were dominated by the Tottots at 23 points; second was SIS with 34; and third was Chacha Ocean View Middle School who garnered 43 points.

SIS’ Scarlett Burrell was first in the girls individual standings with a time of 16:15; second was teammate Faith Arriola at 16:27; and third was DMS’ Rhodalynd Zanduetat at 17:30.

In the boys division, first place was DMS’ Jacob Es-

cabo who came in at 14:16; second was ACS’ Lucas Yang at 14:19; and third was DMS’ Yuxi Lu with 14:36.

Dr. Ron Snyder, SIS headmaster and coach and meet director, said, “The teams keep continuing to impress. Kaithlyn Chavez was injured so could not keep up her streak but her teammate, Adalee Tafflinger, took the gold. Agape performed really well in the HS divisions as a team. The SIS MS girls continued their perfect record and DMS boys found retribution in MS boys with a definitive victory.”

Results of the open men’s and women’s Gecko 5000 Fun Run will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

YOUNG

From page 16

linan, she bagged gold in the 81-90-lb kids 1 division over Ryusei “Ryu” Asai with an armbar finish just under 20 seconds in. Deon Greenman won bronze.

Deleon Guerrero said of his young wards, “I feel like they performed the best. All together, they had the most submission wins, and they also brought home the most medals than the adults even though there were only three of them. The three of them brought home four medals... but at the end of the day, it’s not at all about being on the podium or winning. It’s just about performing your best in jiu jitsu.” He added, “I feel like the kids—from when we started to today, they showed

a tremendous amount of progression, so I just want to keep pushing us in that direction.”

In the 51-60-lb peewee 2 division, Sen. Corina Magofna (Ind-Saipan)’s daughter, Aiyani Rios, won gold after a minor slip on the mat. She regained composure and control then eventually brought Eleanor Anderson down via points, 4-2. Amelia Zevallos was the bronze medalist.

The 9-year-old Rios for her part said that the competition “was great because I won.”

On how she felt on winning, “I felt happy because it’s my first time winning a first-place medal.” She added that she worked hard for it and “now, I feel confident beating my opponents.”

Rios then left a message: “Never think negatively, work hard, and never give up on your dreams.”

Jordan Camacho bagged gold in the 91-100-lb kids 2 division. Dylan Greenman won silver, while Joseph Cruz claimed bronze.

In the 101-150-lb absolute division, Trey “King Koa” Manglona came out on top with the gold. Noel “King” Quitugua won silver, while Alexander Diaz had bronze.

Some of these young grapplers also competed and won some medals in their respective divisions during the Mats on Fire served as Trench Tech Promotions’ fundraiser for the upcoming Pátgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament in Guam set for Oct. 26.

Main sponsors of the “Mats on Fire” submission grappling tournament are Monster Energy, Century Hotel, and Hafa Adai Rent-A-Car. Other sponsors include Fökai and Trench Tech Purebred Gym.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
MLB STANDINGS					NFL STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE					AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
East Division					East				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	T	Pct
x-New York	94	68	.580	—	Buffalo	3	1	0	.750
y-Baltimore	91	71	.562	3	N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500
Boston	81	81	.500	13	Miami	1	3	0	.250
Tampa Bay	80	82	.494	14	New England	1	3	0	.250
Toronto	74	88	.457	20					
Central Division					South				
x-Cleveland	92	69	.571	—	Houston	3	1	0	.750
y-Detroit	86	76	.531	6½	Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500
y-Kansas City	86	76	.531	6½	Tennessee	1	3	0	.250
Minnesota	82	80	.506	10½	Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000
Chicago	41	121	.253	51½					
West Division					North				
x-Houston	88	73	.547	—	Pittsburgh	3	1	0	.750
Seattle	85	77	.525	3½	Baltimore	2	2	0	.500
Texas	78	84	.481	10½	Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250
Oakland	69	93	.426	19½	Cleveland	1	3	0	.250
Los Angeles	63	99	.389	25½					
NATIONAL LEAGUE					West				
East Division					Kansas City	4	0	0	1.000
x-Philadelphia	95	67	.586	—	Denver	2	2	0	.500
y-Atlanta	89	73	.549	6	L.A. Chargers	2	2	0	.500
y-New York	89	73	.549	6	Las Vegas	2	2	0	.500
Washington	71	91	.438	24					
Miami	62	100	.383	33	NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
Central Division					East				
x-Milwaukee	93	69	.574	—	Washington	3	1	0	.750
Chicago	83	79	.512	10	Dallas	2	2	0	.500
St. Louis	83	79	.512	10	Philadelphia	2	2	0	.500
Cincinnati	77	85	.475	16	N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250
Pittsburgh	76	86	.469	17					
West Division					South				
x-Los Angeles	98	64	.605	—	Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750
y-San Diego	93	69	.574	5	Atlanta	2	2	0	.500
Arizona	89	73	.549	9	New Orleans	2	2	0	.500
San Francisco	80	82	.494	18	Carolina	1	3	0	.250
Colorado	61	101	.377	37					
y-clinched wild card					North				
					Minnesota	4	0	0	1.000
					Detroit	3	1	0	.750
					Chicago	2	2	0	.500
					Green Bay	2	2	0	.500
x-clinched division					West				
					Seattle	3	1	0	.750
					San Francisco	2	2	0	.500
					Arizona	1	3	0	.250
					L.A. Rams	1	3	0	.250



Pete Rose, baseball's banned hits leader, dies at age 83
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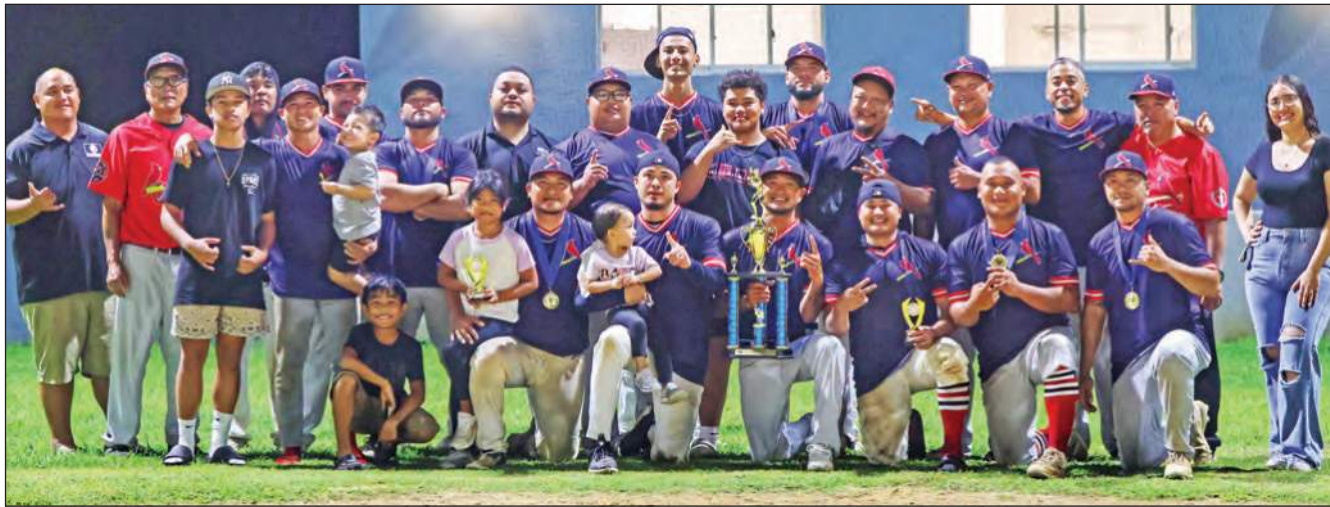
Dikembe Mutombo dies at 58 from brain cancer
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16 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Cardinals repeat as champions



LEIGH GASES

Two-time champions Cardinals pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

While Major League Baseball's postseason is just getting underway, the prolonged 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season finally wrapped up with the Cardinals successfully defending their title on a manic Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

It was written in the cards as the now back-to-back champions Cardinals had a one-game advantage heading into Game 2, and they took it all the way home, 4-2, over the Padres.

It was a rare hot and dry Saipan evening as Cardinals

ace, K.J. Villagomez—backed up by stellar defensive plays—threw heaters and pitched a complete game that left the Padres' lineup reeling.

Both teams' aces were on the mound which basically almost shut down their offense, but it

was the Cardinals' aggressiveness on the base paths—paired up with the Padres' inability to bring home more runners in scoring position—that sealed the deal for the Cardinals in a low scoring Game 2 of the best-of-three championship series.

The Padres had opportunities with runners on base, but left them stranded as Villagomez denied them entry when it mattered most. At the top of the ninth, no outs, and just a two-run Cardinals lead, the plans for a Padres rally came crashing down as miscues from Keith Kintol on second base allowed him to be picked off by the Cards' catcher for the first out.



Kyle Hocog then moved the runner on first with a single, but the next two batters lucked out with their hits as the two outs were registered without a single run crossing home plate for the Padres.

The Cardinals drew first blood at the bottom of the second inning from an RBI base hit by T.J. Sablan, who scored Tony Tenorio all the way from second base. The Padres then tied it up, 1-1, at the top of the third from a long shot by Darion Jones who brought home Ben Jones Jr. Then right at his heels, Tony Salas got a little too greedy and was out at home from the relay.

At the bottom half of the

third, the Cardinals responded right away with two runs from a two RBI single by Nate Camacho to put them up, 3-2. The Padres then crept up with a line drive on the right side by

Kintol who brought in Salas for a 2-3 game.

But the Cardinals scored one more in the sixth inning which was enough as Villago-

See **CARDINALS** on Page 15

Young martial artists shine as Travilla bags 2 gold



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Kaiya Pangelinan, Uriah Sablan, Bryan Deleon Guerrero, and Reiden Travilla pose with their gold medals after the completion of Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Although small in stature, the little ones shone under the spotlight as they fought with heart and passion during the kids gi divisions of Trench Tech Promotions' "Mats on Fire" submission grappling tournament last Saturday at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse.

While everyone performed as best as they could, an up-and-coming grappler, Reinard Travilla, had two gold medals to show for his effort and performance.

He first bagged gold in the 61-70-lb peewee 3 division after he made lone opponent, Deighton "Deight the Great" Muña, tap out with an armbar.

The 11-year-old Travilla then made his way up to the 71-80-lb peewee 4 division with a bye. He breezed through his opponents with another armbar finish, and immediately went to work in the finals against Tate "T-8" Manglona.

There, the Saipan Submissions student under black belt Bryan Deleon Guerrero, forced another submission—his third, with a triangle choke. Manglona settled for the silver while Mica Zevallos claimed bronze.

Travilla said of his win, "I feel really happy and more motivated for the upcoming tournaments that I will be competing in. I am most proud of my wins and for my other teammates for winning and competing with me."

Thank you professor Bryan and Saipan Submissions for preparing me for the tournament and the constant guidance and training every week at the gym. I would also like to thank professor [Justis] Cuki [Alvarez] and the Trench Tech Purebred family for giving me the foundation, and mentorship throughout the years."

Travilla's teammates, Urijah "Wolfie" Sablan and Kaiyi Pangelinan, also won gold in their respective divisions. Seven-year-old Sablan took down Uma "Booma" Naputi via points, 12-0, for gold in the lightest division—40-50-lb peewee 1. Neil "Royal Boy" Quitugua settled for bronze.

For 10-year-old Pangelinan, forced another submission—his third, with a triangle choke. Manglona settled for the silver while Mica Zevallos claimed bronze.

See **YOUNG** on Page 15

BSS sweeps again; SIS, DMS top middle school in Gecko 5000



NMA

Elementary school division runners burst out of the starting line at the Banzai Cliff last Saturday during the Gecko 5000—the third qualifier in the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Although the weather is unpredictable—as usually seen in the CNMI at this time of year—one thing's been sure lately, and that is Brilliant Star Montessori School sweeping the elementary school division this cross-country season.

The young elementary school runners from BSS swept their third qualifier in the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 at the Banzai Cliff last Saturday morning.

The Gecko 5000 1-mile course did not intimidate,



NMA

High school division runners running along the course at the Banzai Cliff last Saturday during the Gecko 5000—the third qualifier in the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2024-2025.

but took breathers away with its stunning early morning views—yet BSS runners hastily ran through the finish line without even breaking a sweat.

BSS girls accumulated 22 points for first place, Mount Carmel School Knights was second

with 32, and third was Saipan International School Lady Geckos with 45.

For the boys division, BSS collected 57 points; second was MCS at 62; and third was San Vicente Elementary School Canaries at 63.

Even the individual first-place runners were a repeat of

See **BSS** on Page 15

